ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-FIFTH ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT OF THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

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THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY

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ADYAR, CHENNAI 600 020, INDIA

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Presidential Address

To the 145th International Convention of the Theosophical Society
Online from 27 to 30 December 2020

I WOULD like to welcome you to this 145th International Convention of the Theosophical Society (TS). Last year, when the location for this meeting was moved to the Indian Section's Headquarters in Varanasi, we thought of it as an exceptional year. This year, 2020, will go down in history as a *most* exceptional year. This is the first time in the TS's history that we have been unable to gather face to face for this annual event. Even during the World Wars, in some manner we were able to gather in each other's presence for this International Convention. These challenging times should make us reflect on the root reasons for this global pandemic, and the role that humanity has played in bringing it about. Let it be our intention to come out of this moment stronger and wiser. Now let us please rise for the invocation to those Great Ones who guide and protect the Society:

May those who are the embodiments of Love Immortal
bless with their help and guidance this Society,
founded to be a channel for their work.
May They inspire it with their Wisdom, strengthen it
with their Power, and energize it with their activity.

I am now pleased to open this 145th Annual Convention of the TS.

Every year has its trials, lessons, and challenges. This year the fact of our interdependence and inseparability has been confirmed in the most definite, if painful, manner. Even the darkest days are not without light. And this moment of trial is filled with blessings, if we can see and respond. For a brief time the "normal" behavior of our human family has been interrupted. A globally shared threat to health and well-being has caused us to stop, to isolate, to halt our blind, headlong rush toward an unsustainable, damaging vision of progress affecting all of the life forms on our Earth. H. P. Blavatsky (HPB) once said: "Do not be afraid of your difficulties. Do not wish you could be in other circumstances than you are. For when you have made the best of an adversity, it becomes the stepping stone to a splendid opportunity."

There is another way — not something new or old, ancient or modern, but the ageless potential for an applied Brotherhood/Sisterhood, interdependence, interbeing that this moment cries out for. The entire

reason for the existence of the theosophical movement is to move from the potential to the actual, growing circles of compassion that must arise when we "get it".

One of humanity's unfortunate features has been that we seem to learn more readily from crisis and suffering than from ease and comfort. During this time of stress and change let us all try to strengthen our link with that source that supports us all. This moment we are presently living through will come to an end, and with it will arise new challenges demanding a deepening access to our inner resources. Let us rise to meet the needs of this moment and the ones to come.

* * *

I am happy to note that 80 new members joined the TS in **Brazil** during the year. They celebrated their centenary over a week-long programme with lectures, musical presentations, and release of the book *Theosophy, the Truth of All Ages*. The 39th Summer Theosophical School was held in Teresópolis, Rio, in January on "Introduction to Yoga, an Esoteric Approach". Cultural activities were carried out and there was greater integration of the young members. Despite the pandemic challenges, they successfully held the International Theosophical School and Winter Seminar on the virtual Zoom platform on "Science and Spirituality" with 338 registrants.

All in-person meetings of the TS in **Canada**, scheduled to be held in 2020, had to be cancelled due to the unprecedented global crisis caused by Covid-19. However, meetings continued to be held online with Zoom and some even continued throughout the summer. Their National Convention in August was also held on the Zoom platform, titled "The Ego, Its Composition, Its Mechanism, and Its Transformation", in both English and French. They are planning to have their 2021 Convention on Zoom again.

It is unfortunate that the TS in **Chile**, despite its best efforts, could not continue with their regular and special activities due to a long period of social unrest followed by the Covid-19 lockdown. Their highlight was the celebration of the 118th anniversary of the Arundhati Lodge Constitution Charter being signed by Col. H. S. Olcott. Some activities were held on a virtual basis in the Lodges. Four public theosophical classes were held in January, generating good participation, of which 7 became members. Members-only workshops continued till January.

Regular activities of the Lodges in **Costa Rica** such as meetings and discussions were held as usual, except that during March to September they had to be held via the Internet. Some videos and talks were sourced from Spain, Argentina, and Brazil. Based on popular demand, a basic course on Theosophy was started by some Lodges for newcomers and non-members. Like elsewhere, the pandemic cast its shadow on the **Cuban** theosophical activities. Fortunately, all regu-

lar functions, including public conferences, were held from October to March with the Annual Convention being organized in January on the theme "Peace".

The **Dominican Republic** has under it the Atma and Nueva Aurora Lodges, and H. P. Blavatsky Group. Members are dedicated, active, and sincere in their studies. Due to the pandemic, meetings, conferences, and lectures are now being conducted virtually. The **Mexican** Section helped in organizing the "Magna Escuela de Sabiduría Digital 2020" of the Inter-American Theosophical Federation, with me giving the opening address. Due to Covid-19 they were also able to participate in programs organized by other Spanish-speaking countries. They have 120 members in 9 Lodges and 5 study centers. The two Lodges of **Peru** conducted all their regular meetings, including studies on important books and special day celebrations, between October and March. Thereafter, some programs were held on the virtual platform.

The TS in **Puerto Rico** has been holding regular meetings and theosophical studies in important and interesting areas on the virtual platform. The pandemic has not been a deterrent. The Universal Flame Lodge has a unique way of keeping the members excited by telephonic studies. Many members in South America, the Caribbean, and Florida have been benefited by the virtual public lectures and conferences offered by the Spanish-speaking Lodges. It is a nice gesture for them to send excerpts of theosophical texts to facilitate daily meditation.

Regular activities in **Uruguay** were held from October to April. During the lockdown virtual meetings were held once a week on the same day and time. Though due to the pandemic all conferences were cancelled, members and well-wishers were invited to attend conferences organized by other Spanish-speaking Sections. Their Theosophical Order of Service (TOS) has three main activities on their agenda — donations for wheelchairs, animal shelters, and Chi Kung classes for a holistic life.

Membership in the **TS in America** is 3,370 with 910 life members. In mid-March everything stopped due to the pandemic and headquarters was closed, anticipating a two-week closure. Staff continued to be paid, but after remaining closed for five weeks with little to no income and continuing expenses, two-thirds of the staff had to be furloughed. A special call for help was issued to members and friends, and the response was amazing. Many staff members have since returned to work. In mid-March, all face-to-face programs moved to an online format. The Thursday night lectures have continued; they are live-streamed weekly and then placed on YouTube. A weekly online meditation has been added, as also an electronic Daily Seed Thought. For the coming year, theosophical programs will continue to be provided online, reallocating staff in some areas. Audiences have actually increased, because the programs are now available around the world.

The H. S. Olcott Memorial Library

worked with theosophical libraries in various countries to resolve collection gaps, increased membership by 23 percent from last year, and began making audio recordings and textual resources more readily available online, especially through <www.archive.org>. Over 900 items have been digitized and viewed over 13,000 times. The archives department received donations of archival materials. Digitization projects continue as also providing information on a huge range of topics. The <Theosophy.wiki> encyclopedia continues to expand online resulting in over 30,000 page views each month by users globally. The IT department did a network upgrade and redesigned the <theosophical.org> website to simplify navigation. It also supports projects, like the new Online School of Theosophy <study.theosophical.org>, around the world. The AV department continued to post videos on <youtube.com/user/TheosophicalSociety> with about 75,000 subscribers. The Theosophical Publishing House in Wheaton is focusing on production of audiobooks of classic theosophical titles and sales through Amazon/Audible. The Quest Book Shop offers 40 percent discount on all products available on <questbooks.com> and had its most successful year in terms of numbers of visitors and sales.

Most study groups have shifted to virtual meetings via Zoom. The prison program continues to provide assistance across the country, offering prisoners books, gift memberships, and correspondence courses. Over 450 prisoners have completed one or more courses.

The TS in **Venezuela** celebrated Foundation Day of the TS in November. Study classes and other activities were cancelled from March to September due to the global pandemic. In every Lodge meeting, members meditate for half an hour for world peace and study books of I. K. Taimni, articles on science and spirituality, and other books.

The **East and Central African** Section delivered a number of theosophical talks at the Nairobi Lodge on different theosophical concepts. A workshop on "Planning for the Future" was organized in which deliberations were made regarding increase of membership and attendance at regular Lodge meetings. On behalf of the TOS, organized by Nairobi Lodge, 11 children were given wheelchairs, a pair of crutches to 1 child, and food packets were distributed to all the children. The General Secretary visited Nile Lodge, in Kampa in February, delivered public lectures, and conducted a seminar for the members of the Lodge. I am happy to know that several members joined the Section.

The year was difficult for the TS in **South Africa** due to various reasons, one being a slump in the economy. Lodge meetings moved to earlier time slots due to escalating crime. After the initial stages of the Covid-19 lockdown, most Lodges opened in September. Attendance is expected to improve from January. The national convention planned in September in Pretoria had to be cancelled. A course on "Human Constitution, Its Constituents and Development" has been intro-

duced and greater participation is expected.

The 3 Lodges of the TS in **Austria**, with 59 registered members (2 members directly attached to the Section), continued with weekly lectures and other activities. Their annual meeting was held in March at Graz. Some of their members attended the summer school of the German TS. Until mid-March, the **Belgian** TS Lodge meetings and lectures were going on as usual. Despite the lockdown, the formal annual members' meeting was organized. Most of the major events could not take place because of the global disaster. It is good to know that some members could attend the last International Convention held in Varanasi. Membership has come down to 62, as 3 resigned on the ground of it being an inconvenience to attend meetings regularly.

The nationwide lockdown for Covid-19 around the world also affected the TS in **England and Wales**. However, the National President maintained contact with all members during this critical time by issuing a monthly newsletter. I am pleased that TSE members in Wales were welcomed and made to feel inclusive.The 39th Congress of the European Federation of TS was postponed until August 2021. The theme of the Congress, "Healing Oneself, Healing the World", will remain unchanged. It is noteworthy that online foundation and diploma courses on Theosophy are being continued and currently being translated into Russian. Their magazine, *Esoterica*, will be issued to members and the public thrice annually from this autumn.

The Annual General Meeting of the **Finnish** Section was organized successfully in Kreivila, postponing the date from April to July due to the pandemic. The major event of the year, the Summer School, was also held in Kreivila in July, on "Eternal Wisdom and the Present Moment". They had three other events in Kreivila: a course on the "Healing Powers of Nature and Other Secrets", a weekend for Lodges, and a silent retreat. The local Lodges in Estonia organized the Estonian Summer School with the theme "Peace within Me". Estonian Lodges had a winter seminar in January and a study class on *The Secret Doctrine* in March. They also had an autumn study camp in August. From March to August, many events were cancelled due to the pandemic. The Finnish Section has 21 Lodges with 335 members.

The activities of the TS in **France** were regular up to the lockdown in March. Bimonthly courses attracted regular participants to the Headquarters in Paris. Silent retreats took place once a trimester; meditation sessions were organized monthly. There were public lectures and introduction to Tai Chi courses. The Section reacted quickly to the pandemic situation and began to organize programmes on Zoom. The online presence has grown, including Facebook, YouTube, and weekly e-newsletters permitting more attendees from a number of countries to participate in the programmes. The bookshop was closed at the beginning of the lockdown, but clients could order books online, by phone, and by post. Due to disruptions in postal services, in April, the monthly

magazine *Le Lotus Bleu* was published in electronic form, and since then some subscribers prefer to receive it by email only. The national convention, usually organized in June, was postponed to October, and took place on Zoom.

The Northern **German** Spring Meeting and the Summer School could not be held because of the Covid-19 pandemic. The book *Meditations on the Occult Life* by Geoffrey Hodson was presented to all members as a gift for their homework. It was very thoughtful on the part of the General Secretary to have posted passages of books, sayings, and book and movie recommendations in the website. It is good to know that five new members joined after reading the book *The Universal Healing Field* by Peter and Katarina Michel gifted to them. As a part of TOS activities, two healing groups met twice a month. The total number of members is 124. The Southern German Meeting was held in September. This one-day meeting was fruitful with talks and deliberations on the theme of healing. It was well attended by 16 members and one guest member from England.

Two important theosophical conferences took place in **Greece**, namely, "The History of Theosophy Conference" and "The European School of Theosophy Conference", both in October. The success of both the conferences was acknowledged by the participants attending from 20 countries. Another important activity was in January, when two Lodges, Helios and Orpheus, were twinned with the Leeds Lodge (UK). Before the lockdown due to the pandemic, in the months of October to March, seven Lodges had their regular meetings and lectures.

Of the 3 Lodges in **Hungary**, it seems only Siddhartha Lodge is active. The pandemic lockdown affected the program during the year. Two new books were published, *The Key to Theosophy* by H. P. Blavatsky and *Self-Transformation* by Vic Hao Chin, Jr. Thirty-seven different theosophical books are available in the Hungarian language. Public lectures are recorded and available on YouTube. A new website with a new design was made containing about 170 downloadable translations of the classic as well as modern theosophical literature. I am happy to know that a new Lodge is likely to come up in the forest area of adjacent Slovakia.

The Summer School of the **Icelandic** Section of the TS, which was to be held in June, got cancelled because of the pandemic. This year they had 26 meetings from the beginning of October to 8 February. The talks were usually advertised through social media and were open to the general public free of charge. The newsletter *Mundilfari* is published thrice a year with reports about TS meetings of the Section and around the world. The eight active Lodges, including a new one, Martinus, in Reykjavik and one in Akureyri, had regular Friday lectures and Saturday meetings with discussions and videos till February, when Covid-19 intervened. The talks were advertised and open to the public besides members of the TS. Attendance was usually from 30 to 60 persons. People had the opp-

ortunity to meet the lecturers afterward and discuss with them further. A few Lodges had members-only meetings too. *Gangleri*, their annual journal, was published with 160 pages.

No new books were published but some of the earlier books were reprinted. The website <lifspekifelagid.is>, in Icelandic and English, contains information on the Section, its activities, events, a collection of lectures and articles by various authors, and so on. The Summer School planned in June had to be cancelled and the Annual General Meeting had to be postponed twice due to Covid 19.

In **Ireland**, both Belfast and Phoenix Lodges in Dublin had a successful and harmonious year of meetings until the Covid-19 lockdown. The 15th All-Ireland Convention in Dublin also had to be cancelled. Nevertheless, the Organizing Secretary kept in touch with all the Irish members weekly, sending on theosophical programmes and newsletters from abroad, including Adyar, US, the Philippines, Europe. She also sent everyone a weekly selection of uplifting extracts from theosophical and spiritual texts. Each member frequently received attachments of TS news worldwide and study notes from texts such as *The Bhagavadgitā*, *The Voice of the Silence*, and other books on Theosophy. The member-ship is growing.

Despite the unprecedented pandemic, the activities of the **Italian** Section (ITS) continued with the use of new digital communication technologies. It also made it possible to develop new initiatives and new contacts; as a result, there is growing general interest in the TS and its activities. They have a well-structured website, rich in information, visited by 6,500 surfers every month, and this increased during the lockdown. There is a section named "members only" with a separate address. It gives information about TOS activities also. The monthly newsletter is emailed to over 3,800 people interested in theosophical activities in Italy. Five books were published by ITS. In November, a large audience attended a public meeting. Marco Pasi, Associate Professor from the University of Amsterdam, presented a report on "Antonio Fogazzaro and Theosophy — An Investigation Based on Previously Unpublished Documents". I am happy to share that an "Introduction to Theosophy and the Theosophical Society" course was produced having lessons in the classrooms, Zoom lessons, and recorded ones. It was a great success, and the second one has already started.

Despite Covid-19 a lot of activity is going on in the TS in the **Netherlands** and at the International Theosophical Centre (ITC) in Naarden. The Garden of Remembrance at ITC, which holds ashes of Annie Besant, Rukmini Devi, and others, is being renovated. A guesthouse was renovated in November. The membership has increased to 357. The General Members' Meeting took place in October. The Dutch Section includes a library of 21,000 books linked online to the Lodge and ITC libraries, and a bookshop. There were two events with 80 and 100 participants before Covid-19, and the

rest had to be cancelled. The quarterly magazine was published on the website, <theosofie.nl>. A bimonthly newsletter was mailed to over 1,000 subscribers. Lodge activities included book discussions, films, talks, and so on. The project "The TS Netherlands in Changing Times" continues its obligation to keep Theosophy alive using social media, public relations, meditation sessions, and demonstrating that Theosophy is a matter of the heart and conduct, rather than only mental. True spirituality is not theoretical, but must be practised.

"Strommen" is a local active group of the TS in **Norway**, having a few solitary members. *The Secret Doctrine* is studied in Dharma Lodge four times a year. Due to Covid-19, the Strommen local group conducted meetings through Skype as only six persons were allowed to meet physically according to government instructions.

Until March, the TS in **Portugal** organized its regular meetings along with the traditional commemorative days, public meetings, panel discussions, and other activities. During lockdown because of the pandemic, video-conferencing mode was adopted by Lodges and study groups also. The website is a potent platform and other social media windows are also used to reach the members and maintain enthusiasm and interest. A regular newsletter is edited and published.

I am happy to note that till the lockdown which occurred in **Scotland** in March, the Lodges and study groups functioned normally organizing talks and meditation gatherings. It is heartening that despite the unprecedented situation, the members of some Lodges discussed on a virtual basis through webinars.

It is creditable that the TS in **Slovenia** has slowly picked up momentum and is making consistent efforts to implement the rules and encourage members. They have added 2 study centres since 2019 to the existing four Lodges. Not discouraged by the pandemic, they have set up digital contacts among members.

Though all activities in Lodges in **Spain** were restricted due to the situation caused by the pandemic, various branches organized themselves to continue their regular study and dissemination of activities using digital platforms. Some of them included non-members as well. There were three main annual events. A silent retreat, conducted by Ms Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu, was held in December near Madridon, on "The Heart Sutra", including profound reflections on its different aspects, with 50 people attending. Jornadas Ibéricas (Iberian Days), traditionally held jointly with the TS in Portugal, had to be cancelled. The Summer School was held in August, using videoconferencing, with 300 participants from all over the world, on "Theosophy: Paradigm and Transformation". Ms Jaishree Kannan, in charge of the Surendra Narayan Archives in Adyar, offered an interactive "Mantrams" workshop in Barcelona.

The **Swedish** Section, with 160 members, organized public lectures on Freemasons, the Quakers, the Seven Rays, and Self-Transcendence. Two new study

groups and two Saturday workshops were started. Foundation Day on 17 November was celebrated at the Headquarters in Stockholm. All scheduled lectures, study groups, and the summer school were cancelled because of the Covid-19 pandemic. However, this autumn study groups were held with limited participants. They were quite active on the Internet and the website. TOS Sweden continues to support a school project in Goa, India, called "Mango Tree". *Raja Yoga* by Wallace Slater was translated into the Swedish language and published by the Section.

The TS in **Switzerland** carried on their regular programme in a structured manner. The highlight was a seminar in collaboration with the European Federation and the Italian Section. Its Assembly was held in September. Cantons also carried on vigorously with their activities. Fortnightly meetings were organized in the Lugana study group. Because of Covid-19, members are meeting through a specially created WhatsApp group. We appreciate their free distribution of magazines and books to generate interest in Theosophy.

In September, the **Ukrainian** Section members elected Mrs Svitlana Gavrylenko as their General Secretary. It is commendable that the Institute of National Lecturers of Ukraine was set up in November. Interestingly, there is an All-Ukrainian theosophical group which includes non-affiliated members of the Section and holds regular weekly meetings. Due to pandemic restrictions from March, the TSU activities took place online through social networks. The TOS in Ukraine united volunteers at different places for helping children, taking care of animals, and protecting Nature. Many volunteers joined the support meditation groups for healing.

The **East and Southeast Asia** TS Presidential Agency overarches four countries: Singapore, Malaysia, Japan and Myanmar. Singapore and Myanmar Lodges were founded by Col. H. S. Olcott and, therefore, are among the oldest in the TS world. We appreciate the effort of the **Singapore** Lodge in carrying forward their activities until the end of March, including the 47th edition of "A Course in Theosophy", which attracted 16 new members. They continued with their programmes, observing all Covid-19 guidelines of the Government, from 1 August. Online efforts have been continuing satisfactorily.

It is an appreciable arrangement that the **Malaysia** Lodge functions normally every Saturday and is open to non-members. Like elsewhere, their activities were adversely impacted by the Covid-19 lockdown. However, online meetings are being attended by members. The President of the Nippon Lodge in Tokyo, **Japan**, which has 30 members, is Naoto Okamoto. It is the only Lodge in the country. Online webinars are held monthly. Publications during the year were two books on practical occultism and *An Epitome of Theosophy*. I congratulate the **Myanmar** Lodge on receiving the Registration Certificate from their national government. The Yangon TS has

one Lodge with 36 members. Despite the lockdown, they celebrated Adyar Day, Wesak Day, and White Lotus Day.

The **Australian** Section National Convention on the theme "A Dialogue with the Universe: Science, Wisdom, and Creativity", held in Melbourne, was a great success. The Section published an anthology of articles on *Theosophy and Science* by the late Dr Hugh Murdoch, astrophysicist and founder of the Theosophy-Science group. In March, before the suspension of all activities due to Covid-19, 31 presentations around the Section were done through national lecturing programmes. From March onward, members remained connected to the centre through innovative electronic methods of communication.

Mainamati Lodge and two other Lodges celebrated the birth anniversary of Annie Besant and Mahatma Gandhi on 1 and 2 October respectively. Five members from the TS in **Bangladesh** attended the last International Convention held in Varanasi. Diplomas for 37 members were issued during the year. From mid-March, all gatherings were cancelled due to the global pandemic. However, virtual programmes are now being held.

The **Indian** Section has over 10,000 members distributed among 492 Lodges and Centres under 16 Federations. The term of National President Pradeep Gohil was renewed for another 3 years. Goal review and setting meetings were held with representatives of the Federations with the objective of inspiring all to do good theosophical work. The overall average achievement for the year was 63%, and there is room for improvement.

The main goal this year was to increase the Section's income and become financially independent. A dilapidated building in the Section headquarters was replaced by a new 4-storey building. This helped to bring in some substantial income as well as provide more accommodation for visitors. Now a total of 200 persons can be accommodated for study camps, conferences, and so on. Another important change was the renovation of the 1,500-seat Radha Burnier Amphitheatre inaugurated by me on 31 December at the start of the 144th International Convention. The Annual National Study Camp was held with 80 participants in the Headquarters in October on "The Teachings of Theosophy and J. Krishnamurti", directed by Prof. P. Krishna, who has for long been associated with both the TS and Krishnamurti Foundations. The reference book used, A *Jewel on a Silver Platter*, is his own. The Uttar Pradesh Federation organized its Centenary Conference in Agra in October, inaugurated by me. The theme was "One Life, One Consciousness". The highlight of the year was the hosting of the International Convention in Varanasi in December, after 30 years, with 1,500 delegates, good food, stalls, electric vehicle transport, sightseeing trips, slightly dampened by the extraordinarily unusual cold weather. All the customary activities went on smoothly.

The 128th Convention of the Section was held in Varanasi in January on "Kindle the Spark Within". A certificate course on "Self-Realization through Theosophy"

was conducted in Varanasi in January, concluding with the induction of 10 new members. The Covid-19 lockdown affected regular activities considerably. The Easter Conference in April at Adyar had to be cancelled as also the 9 Summer Camps planned to be conducted at the Himalayan Study Centre, Bhowali. The same was the fate of other study classes and camps as well.

The National President participated in the conference on "History of Theosophy" in Greece. He also spoke at the European School of Theosophy Conference in Greece on "Reincarnation — Its Causes and Process" and "Ancient Wisdom and Modern Science" in October. From October to March more than 15 National Lecturers participated in various programmes all over the country. Some of them conducted online study classes after the advent of the pandemic. Annie Besant's 172nd birthday, Foundation Day, Adyar Day, and White Lotus Day were celebrated. *The Indian Theosophist* is the monthly journal. During the year the Section's website <theosophy-india.org> was redesigned.

In January, the National Section of **New Zealand** organized a very successful National Convention in Hamilton on the theme "One Heart, One Breath, One World" which was attended by many theosophists including International Vice-President, Dr Deepa Padhi, and International Treasurer and TOS Secretary, Nancy Secrest. They were guest speakers at the National Convention and at several branches. The Annual School of Theosophy held in Auckland in October 2019 was also very fruitful. I wish to acknowledge the publication of a 7-part online series exploring Theosophy. Successful social media campaigns have really increased awareness of Theosophy.

The Indo-Pacific Federation Conference was hosted by the **Philippine** Section in November, which I attended with my wife, Lily, and other international officers from Adyar. The Youth and Well-Being Centre was inaugurated during the excellent and productive Convention. They had their strategic planning meeting in March, where the programs for the next seven years were identified. From mid-March all activities were cancelled because of the pandemic. I am happy to note that online weekly meetings were held with international participation in the true spirit of Universal Brotherhood, apart from similar online seminars. It is heartening that online classes started in September. TOS Philippines is very active with many projects and the volunteers did a commendable job during the volcano eruption and Covid-19 lockdown.

The Blavatsky Lodge in **Qatar** reports that they could not hold a single meeting since February due to the pandemic and strict Government controls. Some of their members tested positive but they have recovered without much complications.

At the International Headquarters, the **Adyar Library and Research Centre**, dedicated to the study of Oriental literature, philosophy, and religion, plays a crucial role in interacting with members and the public. Dr Radha Raghunathan joined as the new Director of ALRC in

November. You are encouraged to visit the Centre and benefit from the treasured knowledge. Apart from numerous Sanskrit and other palm-leaf manuscripts, it houses important books in several national and international languages. Editing of rare articles and books consistent with the UGC-CARE guidelines was started. The Library becomes richer every year with generous book donations.

On 25 January we saw a milestone event when the new premises of the **Adyar Archives** was inaugurated and named after the late Surendra Narayan, International Vice-President of the TS for many years. The refurbishment was possible due to a generous donation from his family members. Despite the universal problem created by the pandemic, the digitizing of the Blavatsky Museum catalogues was adroitly accomplished. Handwritten books have been uploaded to the computer database where necessary. Efforts are under way to collect authentic information on the rare paintings gifted by the famous art historian, Govindraj Venkatachalam of Bengaluru.

The regular academic and cocurricular activities of the **Olcott Memorial Higher Secondary School** continued until March, when the school had to be closed due to the pandemic as per government instructions. However, teaching strategies were fine-tuned to provide special training for the teachers to adapt to the requirements of a virtual classroom and the digital framework. A digital initiative of learning by providing computer tablets for students of grades 10 to 12 classes was successfully started and is in progress. The **Social Welfare Centre** continued providing care to 46 children, taking care of their nutritional requirements and play activities. In the **Vocational Training Centre**, 24 students underwent training in tailoring, weaving, and other craft-related skills. But since April these activities remain suspended due to the pandemic. The H. P. Blavatsky Boys' Hostel is operational, but activities remain suspended due to Covid-19.

In the November session of the **School of the Wisdom**, Dr José Foglia, from Uruguay, helped the students understand the deeper knowledge of the human nervous system and brain, and reactions and habits of thought. In the December session students were introduced to the J. Krishnamurti dialogues by Mr Paul Smith in a good interactive session. The Venerable Olande Ananda Thera, from Sri Lanka, took the third session last January, on meditation, and guided the students on how to practise it in daily life. During the fourth and last January-February session of the School, Dr Elena Dovalsantos, from the US, offered a course on *The Secret Doctrine*, explaining its relevance in day-to-day life.

The **Theosophical Order of Service** (TOS) is present in 35 of the 59 countries where the TS is active via several outreach avenues. This year Nancy Secrest, International TOS Secretary, gave talks and made presentations at the Indo-Pacific Federation Conference held in the Philippines in November. In January, Ms Secrest, with TS Vice-President

Dr Deepa Padhi, went to New Zealand, where Ms Secrest gave a presentation on the TOS and both participated in a panel discussion on TOS activities. I would like to record my deep appreciation for the long years of excellent leadership by B. L. Bhattacharya, as Director of TOS in India, and welcome K. Sivaprasad as his successor. Usha Shah in Kenya and Martha Muñoz Forero in Colombia provided commendable support to TOS by their exemplary services. Both took retirement this year. In a certain sense, the Covid pandemic provided opportunities worldwide to provide food and other assistance to the hapless during the lockdown period. Many TOS groups are also active in animal welfare. Almost all countries have healing groups and are very much active during this Covid time. I take this opportunity to congratulate Pam Evans of TOS England who has been decorated as MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire) by the Queen of England.

The Theosophical Publishing House: The Covid-19 pandemic caused a complete shutdown of sales from the end of March to mid-September. During the first half-year, the sale of books continued to be good both in India and abroad. Sales via the Amazon website continued to do well. Total sales for the one-year period from April to March was Rs 3.52 million compared to Rs 4.09 million of the previous year. The fall in sales was due to the International Convention being held in Varanasi instead of Adyar. During the period from October to September, fifteen reprints were published.

For the **Besant Memorial Animal Dispensary** (BMAD) the year has been very productive in spite of the Covid-19 pandemic. The team that started off with one veterinarian and one caretaker four years ago has now become an army of twenty-five passionate workers, mostly volunteers, including four veterinarians and four managers. Animals have been in need of rescue and treatment more than ever. On an average there are 200 in-house rescued animals and roughly 25 to 30 inpatient animals on any particular day. The team also manages around 200 outpatient cases per month.

Overall, more than 600 animals, including large ones, were rescued, during the year. New additions include beach horses and racehorses whose original caretakers did not have the facility to feed and care for them during the lockdown. Due to neglect, the once-admired horses had become malnourished and weak. After 5–6 months of continuous care they have once again become healthy and happy.

During the lockdown, despite being under the risk of Covid transmission, the team ensured that all animals, including those living in the TS, were fed and cared for. With crowd-funding through "Ketto", BMAD successfully collected up to Rs 1.8 crores for renovating the facility. New equipment like an X-ray machine was added as also kennels for inpatient animals and a shed for in-house dogs. Sponsors have made significant contributions for feed and medical supplies, and one sponsor even helped to obtain an ambulance to rescue animals in trouble.

The animal birth control programme has been a successful venture, and this year close to 1,000 such surgeries have been completed with smooth recovery.

·The **Adyar Theosophical Academy** (ATA) concluded its first academic year in March with 54 students in classes from Pre-K to Grade II, a year full of activities, learning, and adventures. Contact with Nature and a focus on arts to explore the creative side were essential parts of the ATA's spirit and approach to education. Academics were enriched with educational trips and project activities and integrated with sports, theatre, music, and arts. On 25 January, ATA had its very first "Sports Day" on the grounds of Olcott Memorial School, Adyar, with me as the Chief Guest. Students gifted little mementos created by them. I hoisted the School Flag and addressed the assembly of participants as well as parents. I emphasized how sports is an integral part of learning and encouraged children to participate with zeal and passion.

On 14 March, ATA celebrated its first "Annual Day" in the Adyar Theatre. Ms Marja Artamaa, international Secretary of the TS, was the Chief Guest. The programme included cultural expressions from India and the world, dramas recreating life in the forest and care toward Nature, and songs that spoke of the unity of life and brotherhood. But a few days later the lockdown forced the school to close abruptly due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

On 11 June, ATA started its second academic year, transitioning from in-person to online classes, using the virtual platform Zoom. The second year brought the addition of Grade 3 and strength of 110 students. This also required training for teachers to adapt and orient themselves, who participated in more than 20 workshops.

On 24 June 2020, ATA celebrated its first birthday. Vicente Hao Chin, Jr, and other guests joined online. Children sang, recited, and shared their spontaneous drawings as well as birthday cards. The event ended with encouraging words from Vic and the other guests.

The final celebration of the period from 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2020 was on 21 August, to celebrate Ganesha Chaturthi. In Hinduism, this is a 10-day festival marking the birth of the elephant-headed deity, Ganesha, the god of prosperity and wisdom. The children sang ślokas in his honour, had sessions of fireless cooking, and also different representations of Ganesha using various artistic techniques and elements.

One of ATA's highlights of the year was "Gratitude Week" — an exercise inculcating thankfulness in everyday life.

TIM BOYD

THE TREASURER'S REPORT
AND
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 MARCH 2020

TREASURER'S REPORT — AUDITED ACCOUNTS 2019–2020

Respected members of the General Council:

The audited financial statements of the accounts of the Society for the year ended 31 March 2020 are already in your hands. Please find hereunder the salient points of income and expenditure of the Society for the fiscal year 2019–2020.

The Theosophical Society's accounting system underwent a major change this year by introducing new accounting procedures specifically in the way our TALLY accounting software was being utilized. As a result the audited report that you have received contains financial statements that are now produced in a more modernized and universally recognized format, and it is much shorter. There is now one Balance Sheet and Income & Expense Statement for the whole Theosophical Society (TS) as an organization.

Formerly, Balance Sheets and Income Statements were produced for each major department/cost centre and then consolidated into financial statements that were summaries of department totals only. On the Income Statement in particular, figures are now shown for various expenditure and income items for the TS as a whole. For example, under the old format nowhere could one find how much the TS spent on salaries and wages or postage or telephone without physically adding up those expenses from the individual department's Income Statements. At the same time, the various cost categories and department/cost centres you are used to were not abandoned. You have also received a Cost Category Summary that lists categories, such as the Propagation of Theosophy, and those cost centres within them showing total expenditures, income and any Fund monies utilized with the resulting surplus or deficit for that cost centre. More detailed information is also available if you wish it. It was our aim to make the financial reporting simpler and more complete while remaining transparent.

1. INCOME

The details of the income for the year ended 31 March 2020 as compared to the previous two year are as follows:

	Financial Year		
	2019–2020	**2018–2019**	**2017–2018**
a) Gross interest received from investments	22,847,997	23,007,802	26,090,897
b) Fees and dues	2,901,231	2,000,875	2,683,884
c) License fees	—	200,000	1,210,000
d) Adyar Day donations	206,148	213,778	196,627
e) General donations	164,654	674,741	468,966
f) Restricted donations	70,857,888	—	
g) Sales & Subscriptions – TPH & Magazines	3,750,340	4,548,068	3,761,540

h) Sales & Subscriptions – ALRC & Garden	400,726	963,722	547,512
i) Other income	3,016,758	4,484,569	4,696,106
Sub Total – gross income	104,145,741	36,093,555	39,655,532
Less: Interest transferred to earmarked funds	(10,544,399)	(10,569,989)	(12,042,687)
Total Income	**93,601,343**	**25,523,566**	**27,612,845**

The gross income for the year as shown above increased greatly from the two previous years by Rs. 68,077,777 (2019) and Rs. 65,988,498 (2018). This is mostly due to the increase in donations from several sources. Rs. 52,444,316 in donations for the LBC renovation project that were being held in the Netherlands, Australia and New Zealand were called upon in order to cover expected contractor invoices as the renovation neared completion. (The lockdowns due to the Corona virus pandemic unexpectedly halted this work at the end of March, and Rs. 22,075,100 of this amount remains unspent at this time.) In addition, the Besant Memorial Animal Dispensary began a crowd-funding campaign that brought approximately Rs. 6,000,000 by year end. In addition, Rs. 2,444,000 was donated to the Archives in 2019–2020 by the family of Surendra Narayan for the building of the New Archives, and Rs. 2,500,000 was donated toward the new Headquarters Garden by a gentleman in memory of his wife. Rs. 354,928, in donations for anticipated new building construction for the Adyar Theosophical Academy, was also received. The generosity of our donors is much appreciated. The table above shows a separation of General and Restricted donations to more clearly show receipts for specific purposes. It also lists the gross TPH sales amounts rather than just the surplus as has been listed in the past. Two new line items are Sales from ALRC & Garden and Other Income which includes LBC canteen and boarding income, plus other miscellaneous income from various cost centres. In some cases prior year amounts have been changed from last year's analysis (or added) to ensure that comparison figures matched as to their sources.

Income from interest on investments decreased by Rs. 159,805. This is mostly due to the usage of some investments for their donated purposes which reduced the total amount invested as well as declining interest rates. There were no License fees in 2019–2020. The amount shown for 2018–2019 was for the last two months' rent of the Damodar Gardens property by the KFI. We will see no further income from License fees until we begin receiving "rent" from the Damodar Gardens property and/or from the Adyar Theosophical Academy, both of which are pending. Adyar Day donations decreased slightly this year while Fees & Dues increased, a reversal of last year's results. TPH sales are more in line this year with those in 2017–2018. The 2018-2019 figure was misleading as some sales from 2017–2018 were not posted until April 2018 thereby showing increased sales in 2018–19.

2. EXPENDITURE

The NET results under the different Cost Categories, after utilizing the funds held for those purposes, as compared to those of the previous two years were as under:

Please note that some category names have been changed. Buildings, Grounds & Support now includes what we formerly called Departments and Establishment. Prior year figures for Establishment must be added to those for Buildings, Grounds & Support for comparison purposes. The cost centre TS Primary has replaced what was formerly called Other Expense. Negative figures (in brackets) indicate a surplus of income to expenditures.

	Financial Year		
Nature of expenditure	**2019–2020**	**2018–2019**	**2017–2018**
a) Buildings, Grounds & Support	21,728,137	17,885,956	18,664,775
b) Charitable work	(3,171,805)	511,470	444,873
c) Propagation of Theosophy	1,664,125	1,601,202	1,698,560
d) International offices	2,839,345	3,085,279	2,269,698
e) TS Primary	(61,647,776)	—	—
f) Establishment	—	7,566,331	5,425,621
g) Other expense	—	5,459,965	2,205,848
Totals	(38,587,974)	36,110,203	30,709,375

The GROSS results of each Cost Centre are explained hereunder:

2 (a) Buildings, Grounds & Support

	2019–2020	**2018–2019**	**2017–2018**
i) Bhojansala & Leadbeater Chambers	1,059,027	479,783	176,442
ii) Garden	2,057,337	2,553,464	2,682,778
iii) General Manager's Office	209,570	237,229	213,342
iv) Headquarter's Projects	(1,565,645)	818,476	146,572
v) Housekeeping	1,819,822	1,807,261	1,173,034
vi) Information Technology	176,310	—	—
vii) Maintenance	15,155,810	15,132,709	16,879,555
viii) Sanitation	886,992	670,661	725,704
ix) Security	4,725,473	4,732,704	3,878,969
Totals	24,524,696	26,432,287	25,876,396

2a (i) The operations of Bhojansala & Leadbeater Chambers resulted in a deficit increase of Rs. 579,244 from 2018–2019. This is due almost entirely to a decrease in boarding income due to the temporary closing of the LBC dining room and lack of visitors while

LBC is being renovated. On the expense side, the cost of Provisions increased as did the costs of electricity and water. Maintenance of the RO system also increased expenditures by Rs. 78,500. All other items remained stable.

2a (ii) In spite of the decrease in Sales of Rs. 326,988 in the Garden department, their deficit decreased by approx. Rs. 500,000 as compared with 2018–2019. This was almost entirely due to a decreased use of Contracted Labor near the end of the fiscal year. We have recently signed with a new contractor so can expect this expense to increase again.

2a (iii–ix) The General Manager's Office results remain in line with prior years, as do those of Housekeeping, Maintenance, Sanitation and Security. Headquarter's Projects showed a surplus this year of Rs. 1,565,645. This is difficult to compare with prior year's as the Projects are short term and different from year to year. In 2019–2020 the sole project in this cost centre was the landscaping of a garden area between the Headquarters Building and the Adyar Theatre. A donation to completely cover the cost of the project was received this year. However, all of the costs involved had not yet been incurred by fiscal year end, hence the surplus. The rest of the costs will appear in fiscal 2020–2021 when the project ended. Donations to maintain the garden area have also been promised. A new cost centre this year is Information and Public Relations which is just getting started.

2 (b) Charitable Work

	2019–2020	2018–2019	2017–2018
i) Animal Welfare (re: Garden Dept.)	—	817,584	595,709
ii) Besant Memorial Animal Dispensary	(2,821,306)	2,855,514	1,651,421
iii) Besant Scout Camping Centre	6,810	—	—
iv) Education	561,136	840,740	2,312,608
v) Welfare Grants	679,784	674,637	431,229
vi) Free Dispensary & Medical Aid	226,024	265,940	234,142
vii) School fees & books	635,390	153,000	181,000
viii) Social Welfare	—	140,039	1,393,579
ix) Others	—	194,350	11,910
x) Cyclone Relief	—	94,566	310,000
xi)Theosophical Order of Service	—	620,647	136,540
Totals	712,162	6,657,017	7,258,138

Donations restricted to the above usages are now shown on the Income Statement as Restricted Donations to the various cost centres. Surpluses not used to cover expenditures in the year donated are kept in invested "Funds" until needed to cover expenses in subsequent years. This year those surpluses totaled Rs. 28,461,601, and a total of Rs. 11,464,217 over and above current year donations was utilized from the "Funds" this year toward the above

expenses. Animal Welfare expenditures were merged this year with those of the Besant Memorial Animal Dispensary (BMAD) when it began caring for the livestock full time and took over the feeding of Adyar campus dogs and cats on a daily basis. BMAD continued increasing its donations this year, and near the end of fiscal 2019–2020 began participation in a crowd funding campaign. At the end of the year we had received only one payment from the campaign. This plus many other donations received throughout the year account for the large surplus results that BMAD enjoyed. At last report, the campaign had earned BMAD more than Rs. 13,000,000 in donations. The campaign will end shortly before the General Council meeting in December at which time the final results will be known. The "funds" also completely covered the expenses of Education, Welfare Grants, School Books & Fees and others.

2 (c) Propagation of Theosophy

	2019–2020	2018–2019	2017–2018
i) Adyar Library & Research Centre	2,097,860	1,946,305	2,642,523
ii) Adyar Theosophical Academy	4,474,080	384,394	—
iii) Archives & Museum	(1,782,593)	261,185	443,769
iv) Book Gifts	—	95,437	7,923
v) Conventions & Seminars	1,060,918	902,171	1,842,877
vi) Information & Public Relations	5,310	—	—
vii) School of the Wisdom	376,967	128,287	345,255
viii) Theosophy Science Centre	3,147	3,100	516
ix) Theosophical Publishing House	750,803	(1,030,873)	(382,513)
x) *The Theosophist & Adyar Newsletter*	710,678	506,483	632,587
xi) Vasanta Press	46,964	709,057	566,433
Totals	7,744,133	3,905,546	6,099,370

2c (i) The year end results for the Adyar Library are in line with those of prior years. The net deficit of the ALRC was completely covered again this year by previously donated "funds".

2c (ii) The deficit results of the Adyar Theosophical Academy are due to maintenance rehab and repair of the former TPH building, shifting and "start-up costs". About half of these costs were covered by previously donated funds. ATA is included this year for information only. It is no longer a TS cost centre as it is now a registered Society in its own right.

2c (iii) The surplus results in Archives and Museum is due to donations received in this fiscal year that covered the cost of the New Archives. This is a Fixed Asset, and as such is not shown nor taken into account on the Income Statement.

2c (v-viii) The results of the Conventions and Seminars, School of the Wisdom and Theosophy Science Centre are all in line with those of prior years. Convention costs were fully covered by previously donated "funds" and School of the Wisdom was partially covered. Information and Public Relations is a new Cost centre this year.

2(c) (ix) The Theosophical Publishing House	**2019-2020**	**2018-2019**	**2017-2018**
1) Gross profit from sale of publications	2,471,163	2,291,376	1,899,912
2) Royalty and copyright fees	—	339,671	97,174
3) Surplus/(loss) from *Wake Up India & Digest*	(11,657)	(11,989)	(37,250)
4) Net surplus/(deficit) of the TPH	(750,803)	1,030,873	385,513
5) Loss from *The Theosophist & Adyar Newsletter*	(710,678)	(506,483)	(632,587)

The results of the different activities of the TPH are shown above. The structure at TPH was revised this year. The main accounting functions for TPH have been transferred to the Treasury Department, with TPH staff continuing to maintain their inventory, sales and detailed sub-ledger records. As of 2020–2021 TPH (and ALRC) sales inventory will also be on the Treasury accounting system and sales will be entered into the Tally system at the time of sale. The main reason for the deficit this year is inventory purchases of Rs. 1,747,729 which appears to be greater than in past years.

2c (x) The increased loss from the publication of *The Theosophist* & the *Adyar Newsletter* is due to a switch in posting interest paid on *The Theosophist* life subscription "fund" as being listed in *The Theosophist*'s cost centre to being listed in the TS Primary cost centre with the rest of the interest from TS investments. There was also an increase in packing and postage expense this year.

2c (xi) Vasanta Press:

The deficit in the production account, representing the printing activity of the Press, decreased by approximately Rs. 550,000 from the average of prior years. This is due to an increase in printing receipts from both other TS departments and Theosophical related organizations, such as Olcott Education Society (OES) and the Masonic Temple.

2d International Departments:

The results of the offices of the President and Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer are in line with prior years.

2e TS Primary:

This new cost centre replaces Other Expenses and gives a repository cost centre for the more uniform TS items. Its activity resulted in a surplus of Rs. 61,647,776 this year.

All donations, unless restricted to a specific department, are posted here, as are fees and dues received and income from dividends and interest on TS investments.

On the expense side, the Society expenditures for depreciation (unless related to the fixed assets of a specific department), payroll admin charges, expenses for income tax, property and water tax, insurance, land-related expenses, legal and court costs and statutory fees and dues are posted to the TS primary cost centre. Two of our largest expenses in this cost centre this year were for depreciation, Rs. 8,384,475, and income tax expense, Rs. 8,579,256. The large increase in depreciation this year was due to the completion of the renovation of Blavatsky Bungalow last year. That plus the addition of a toilet block at the ATA and the completion of the new Archives building caused a major increase in depreciation. This will continue to increase after LBC is completed and the new ATA classrooms are built. The other major expense this year was an adjustment to Provision to Income Tax.

There is a pending litigation for the assessment year 2014–2015 before Court of Income Tax (CIT) (appeals). The total amount of the dispute is Rs. 10,897,993. A provision for income tax was on the TS books, but it was inadequate to cover the disputed amount. Thus an adjustment of Rs. 8,579,256 was made this year.

3. Net Surplus:

The books of the Theosophical Society for fiscal 2019–2020 show a net surplus of Rs. 27,499,669. The net surplus after utilizing Rs. 11,464,217 from the balances in our Other/Earmarked Funds amounted to Rs. 38,938,873 far surpassing the deficits of prior years. This is due to the large increase in restricted donations received this year, over Rs. 70,000,000. The donations were received for LBC renovations from The Netherlands, New Zealand, Australia and others. We also received a greatly increased amount of donations for the Besant Memorial Animal Dispensary and donations for the new Archives. While the income is reflected on the Income & Expense Statement, most of it was used for Fixed Assets which are shown on the Balance Sheet. Excess restricted donations in the amount of Rs.28,461,601 were added to the Other/Earmarked Funds and the balances to be used in subsequent years.

4. Capital Expenditure:

Capital additions/improvements totaling Rs.36,285,017 were added to Fixed Assets this fiscal year, 2019–2020. These included the completion of the new Archives, the building of a toilet block, and other improvements at the Adyar Theosophical Academy and Work in Progress at LBC of Rs.28,823,934. New storage cabinets, computer, and printer were also purchased for the Archives. A new pickup truck, to be used as an ambulance, was also purchased for BMAD as well as some computers and other items for various departments. The work at LBC was totally covered by donations made for that purpose as was the work at the new Archives and its purchases. A single donation also covered the cost of the ambulance.

5. Funds & Investments:

The investments of the Society totaled Rs. 270,448,662 at the end of this fiscal year as compared with Rs. 313,895,790 at the end of the 2018–2019 fiscal year. These funds are

invested in scheduled banks and financial institutions and government bonds, with a small percentage invested in mutual funds.

6 . Acknowledgement:

I continue to be grateful for the opportunity to serve the Theosophical Society as its Treasurer and to the Masters for guiding me here. This year completes my three-year term of office as Treasurer, and I' am happy to say that the goals put to me by our President when I accepted this position have all been fulfilled. I wish to thank President Tim Boyd and the General Council for the trust they have placed in me, and wish to acknowledge the Executive Committee, the International Secretary, the General Manager and Department Heads for all of their assistance throughout the year. Last but certainly not least, none of this work could possibly have been accomplished without the diligent and capable work of the Treasury staff. I gratefully thank and acknowledge them for their efforts.

Nancy Secrest
International Treasurer

ACCOUNTS AND BUDGETS

FEES AND DUES RECEIVED

From 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 (in Rupees)

	Name of Section etc.	2018–2019	2019–2020
The Theosophical Society in:	Africa, East and Central	630	1100
	Africa, South	—	—
	Africa, West	—	—
	America, Central	—	2045
	Argentina	76450	63361
	Asia, East and South-east:	—	—
	Australia	236099	—
	Austria	—	—
	Bangladesh	—	—
	Belgium	72220	—
	Bolivia	57531	31394
	Brazil	—	674525
	Canada	25709	33257
	Chile	102860	50618
	Colombia	—	—
	Costa Rica	53094	—
	Cuba	—	—
	Dominican Republic	11603	13768
	England	182553	96154
	Finland	129588	123008
	France	221513	—
	Germany	—	55151
	Greece	—	41093
	Hungary	—	10566
	Iceland	—	3641
	India	165467	237782
	Indonesia	13865	—
	Ireland	13225	13265
	Italy	170152	194405
	Ivory Coast	—	—
	Mexico	46286	—
	Netherlands, The	—	—
	New Zealand	—	81968
	Norway	—	—

Pakistan	—	—
Peru	14153	—
Philippines, The	—	—
Portugal	—	—
Puerto Rico	22476	22696
Russia	24573	31332
Scotland	—	—
Slovenia	13916	—
Spain	140719	135517
Sri Lanka	—	—
Sweden	—	—
Switzerland	22841	—
Togo	—	—
Ukraine	5849	7879
Uruguay	21559	19137
USA	—	662969
Venezuela	—	39813
Lodges attached to Adyar:		
Khana Wara Lodge (Bolivia)	—	—
Lotus Lodge (Croatia)	14327	—
EL Sol Lodge (Equador)	—	—
Arc-en-Ciel and Ananda Lodges (France)	27471	—
Sofia Lodge (Indonesia)	4715	2860
Covenant Lodge (Israel)	60053	—
Fraternidad Lodge (Paraguay)	—	4228
H. P. Blavatsky Lodge (Qatar)	—	—
Blavatsky Lodge (Slovenia)	14463	—
Orlando Lodge (USA)	10746	752
Fellows-at-large	24169	21973
	2000875	2676257

THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, ADYAR, CHENNAI 600 020

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT	AMOUNT	INCOME	AMOUNT	AMOUNT
Opening Stock		**6,733,186**	**Sales Accounts**		
			Sales (as per Schedule)	3,919,793	
Purchase Accounts			Income From Subcription (As per Schedule)	231,273	**4,151,066**
ALRC Inventory Purchases	4,000				
C & S Stores Purchases	1,496,288		**Direct Incomes**		
Electrical Stores Purchases	561,260		Convention Income	228,517	
TPH Inventory Purchases	1,747,729	**3,809,277**	General Donation/Contribution (as per Schedule)	71,228,690	
			Fees and Dues	2,901,231	
Direct Expenses			Scanning of Books	115,392	**74,473,829**
Animal Welfare Expenses (as per Schedule)	3,604,773				
Convention Expenses (Varanasi)	1,187,861		**Indirect Incomes**		
Discounts	54,845		Miscellaneous Income	1,359,042	
Employee Benefit Expenses (as per Schedule)	23,076,304		Boarding Income	97,730	
Education Expense	564,025		Canteen Income	921,997	
Freight / Shipping Inwards (Direct Expense)	101,743		Dividend Income	3,649,310	
Garden Development and Maintenance Expenses	1,024,813		Interest Income (FC)	9,291,792	
Repairs and Maintenance (as per Schedule)	13,918,773		Interest Income (I)	9,906,895	
GST (Expense)	2,492		Printing Receipts (Vasanta Press)	219,547	
Guest Room Exp. (Linens, Lamps, etc.)	49,061	**43,584,690**	Quarters Maintenance	74,534	**25,520,847**
Indirect Expenses			**Closing Stock**		**7,084,085**
Power Fuel and Electricity	3,072,588				
Amazon Fees	51,754				
Audit Fees	143,420				
Bad Debts Expense	9,177				
Bank Fees and Charges	77,188				
Canteen Expenses (Other Than Food/ Ingredients)	1,978				
Computer Maintenance Expenses	194,691				
Consultancy Fees	99,708				
Danamojo Fees	2,886				
Equipment Expense	45,613				
Income Tax Expense	8,579,256				

THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, ADYAR, CHENNAI 600 020

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT	AMOUNT	INCOME	AMOUNT	AMOUNT
Insurance Expense	34,436				
Ketto Fees	583,026				
Laundry Expense	11,432				
Lease Rent Expense	2,460				
Legal and Court. Expenses	349,089				
Miscellaneous Expense	124,540				
Medical (Dispensary)	76,030				
Office Expenses	33,540				
Packing Supplies Expense	96,803				
Platform/Gateway Fees and Charges	226,846				
Provisions (Fruits, Ve,getables, Milk Etc.)	548,775				
Publication Expenses (As per Schedule)	1,553,625				
Royalty Expense	22,696				
School Fees & Books and Start up cost	942,091				
Statutory Fees/dues	1,066,277				
Subscription Expense .	4,320				
Telephone and Internet Expense	444,439				
Travel Expenses (Non-Local)	633,470				
Tea and Refreshments	311,077				
Welfare Grant Expense	577,204				
Depreciation Expenses	9,682,573	**29,603,006**			
Excess of Income Over Expenditure		**27,499,669**			
Total		**111,229,827**	**Total**		**111,229,827**

For the Theosophical Society

(N. Secrest)
Treasurer

COMPILED BY US
For Srihari & Co.
Chartered Accountants

Manoj Niranjan G.
Partner

THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, ADYAR, CHENNAI 600 020

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2020

LIABILITIES	AMOUNT	AMOUNT	ASSETS	AMOUNT	AMOUNT
Capital Account			**Fixed Assets**		
General Fund (as per Note)	15,991,361		Adyar Library Holdings	2,963,505	
Add: Excess of Income Over Expenditure	27,499,669		Building Improvements Blavatsky Bungalow	24,082,836	
	43,491,030		Building Improvements - New Archives	2,511,866	
Less: Interest Income transferred to Endowment fund	10,544,399	**32,946,631**	Buildings	32,489,387	
			Electrical and Telephone Installations	5,278,273	
Corpus / Endowment Funds	227,377,464		Furniture and Fixtures	3,217,394	
Legacy Deposits	1,118,000		Land and Development	227,142	
Other / Earmarked Funds (As per Schedule)	131,406,141	**359,901,605**	Plant and Machinery	15,788,853	
			Vehicles and Livestock	3,194,420	
Loans (Liability)	-	-	Work in Progress - ATA Expansion	59,000	
			Work in Progress - LBC Renovations	34,079,373	
Current Liabilities			Accumulated Depreciation	(53,045,116)	**70,846,933**
Provisions	21,065,406				
Sundry Creditors	553,277		**Investments**		
Retention	1,158,446		Investments in Financial Institutions	97,551,000	
Advance from Customers	330,402		Investments in Mutual Funds	46,722,078	
Deposits (Readers and Borrowers ALRC)	1,370,216		Investments in Scheduled Banks	126,175,585	**270,448,662**
Employees Co-Operative Society	101,458				
ESI Payable	9,403		**Current Assets**		
GST (Contra)	36,163		Closing Stock	7,084,085	
Income Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) for Vendors	163,554		Deposits (Asset)	634,180	
Liabilities - Others	1,372,536		Loans & Advances (Asset)	10,557,541	
PF Payable	102,204	**26,263,066**	Sundry Debtors	1,248,711	
			Cash-in-Hand _	92,358	
			Bank Accounts	58,198,832	**77,815,707**
Total		**419,111,302**	**Total**		**419,111,302**

THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, ADYAR, CHENNAI 600 020
COST CATEGORY SUMMARY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

Particulars	Expense	Income	Surplus or (Deficit)	Funds Utilized	Surplus or (Deficit) after Funds
Buildings, Grounds and Support					
Bhojansala & Leadbeater Chambers	2,267,464	1,208,437	(1,059,027)	-	(1,059,027)
Garden	2,392,032	334,695	(2,057,337)	113,309	(1,944,028)
General Manager's Office	209,570	-	(209,570)	-	(209,570)
Headquarters Projects	934,355	2,500,000	1,565,645	-	1,565,645
Housekeeping	1,819,822	-	(1,819,822)	-	(1,819,822)
Information Technology	176,310	-	(176,310)	-	(176,310)
Maintenance	16,226,629	1,070,819	(15,155,810)	2,683,250	(12,472,560)
Sanitation	889,614	2,622	(886,992)	-	(886,992)
Security	4,725,472	-	(4,725,472)	-	(4,725,472)
Totals	29,641,269	5,116,573	(24,524,696)	2,796,559	(21,728,137)
Charitable Works					
Besant Memorial Animal Dispensary	7,735,689	10,556,995	2,821,306	483,333	3,304,639
Besant Scout Camping Centre	6,810	-	(6,810)	-	(6,810)
Education	564,136	3,000	(561,136)	561,136	-
Free Dispensary and Medical Aid	272,559	46,535	(226,024)	-	(226,024)
School Fees and Books	635,390	-	(635,390)	635,390	-
Welfare Grant	679,784	-	(679,784)	779,784	100,000
Totals	9,894,368	10,606,530	712,162	2,459,643	3,171,805
International Offices					
President & Vice President	600,463	-	(600,463)	60,990	(539,473)
Secretary's Office	514,045	7,704	(506,341)	28,652	(477,689)
Treasurer's Office	1,863,483	2,935	(1,860,548)	38,365	(1,822,183)
Totals	2,977,991	10,639	(2,967,352)	128,007	(2,839,345)
Primary Cost Category					
Theosophical Society	21,639,024	83,286,799	61,647,775	-	61,647,775
Propagation of Theosophy					
Adyar Library and Research Centre	2,581,347	483,487	(2,097,860)	2,138,122	40,262
Adyar Theosophical Academy	4,831,329	357,249	(4,474,080)	2,498,161	(1,975,919)
Archives and Museum	677,120	2,459,713	1,782,593	-	1,782,593
Convention & Seminars	1,398,335	337,417	(1,060,918)	1,344,730	283,812
Information and Public Relations	5,310	-	(5,310)	-	(5,310)
School of the Wisdom	411,208	34,241	(376,967)	86,041	(290,926)
Theosophy Science Centre	3,147	-	(3,147)	3,147	-
The Theosophical Publishing House	4,587,228	3,836,426	(750,802)	9,807	(740,995)
The Theosophist & *Adyar Newsletter*	867,029	156,351	(710,678)	-	(710,678)
Vasanta Press	303,608	256,644	(46,964)	-	(46,964)
Totals	15,665,660	7,921,528	(7,744,132)	6,080,008	(1,664,124)
Total Cost Categories	79,818,312	106,942,069	27,123,757	11,464,217	38,587,974
Add: Difference in Stock	-	-	350,899	-	350,899
Net Surplus			27,474,656	11,464,217	38,938,873

THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, ADYAR, CHENNAI 600 020

BUDGET AND ACTUALS 2019–2020, BUDGET 2020–2021, AND BUDGET 2021–2022

EXPENSE					INCOME				
Particulars	Budget 2019-2020	Actual 2019-2020	Budget 2020-2021	Budget 2021-2022	Particulars	Budget 2019-2020	Actual 2019-2020	Budget 2020-2021	Budget 2021-2022
Buildings, Grounds and Support					**Buildings, Grounds and Support**				
Bhojansala & Leadbeater Chambers	1,325,000	2,267,464	1,893,971	4,022,468	*Bhojansala & Leadbeater Chambers*	2,940,000	1,208,437	1,425,000	1,650,000
Garden	3,342,000	2,392,032	3,356,625	4,174,276	*Garden*	410,000	334,695	525,000	500,000
General Manager's Office	199,000	209,570	300,621	176,000	*General Manager's Office*	-	-	-	-
Headquarters Projects	200,000	934,355	2,510,600	-	*Headquarters Projects*	-	2,500,000	-	-
Housekeeping	2,024,000	1,819,822	2,751,218	2,710,178	*Housekeeping*	-	-	-	-
Information Technology	300,000	176,310	373,000	376,000	*Information Technology*	-	-	-	-
Maintenance	17,105,000	16,226,629	30,521,273	51,713,108	*Maintenance*	1,760,000	1,070,819	940,000	475,000
Sanitation	1,019,000	889,614	1,677,443	1,079,829	*Sanitation*	-	2,622	2,940	3,000
Security	6,003,000	4,725,472	5,473,804	5,213,204	*Security*	-	-	700,000	700,000
Totals	31,517,000	29,641,269	48,858,555	69,465,062	*Totals*	5,110,000	5,116,573	3,592,940	3,328,000
Charitable Works					**Charitable Works**				
Besant Memorial Animal Dispensary	3,125,000	7,735,689	1,792,125	13,131,588	*Besant Memorial Animal Dispensary*	1,500,000	10,556,995	5,075,000	7,500,000
Besant Scout Camping Centre	-	6,810	-	7,260	*Besant Scout Camping Centre*	-	-	-	-
Education	2,600,000	564,136	800,000	600,120	*Education*	-	3,000	-	-
Free Dispensary and Medical Aid	244,000	272,559	303,698	393,313	*Free Dispensary and Medical Aid*	-	46,535	-	-
School Fees and Books	250,000	635,390	150,000	1,200,000	*School Fees and Books*	-	-	-	-
Others	310,000	-	150,000	-	*Others*	-	-	-	-
Welfare Grant	500,000	679,784	500,000	750,000	*Welfare Grant*	-	-	-	-
Totals	7,029,000	9,894,368	3,695,823	16,082,281	*Totals*	1,500,000	10,606,530	5,075,000	7,500,000
International Offices					**International Offices**				
President & Vice President	517,000	600,463	879,555	598,562	*President & Vice President*	-	-	-	-
Secretary's Office	498,000	514,045	429,484	680,975	*Secretary's Office*	6,000	7,704	-	8,000
Treasurer's Office	1,709,000	1,863,483	2,044,877	2,208,241	*Treasurer's Office*	-	2,935	-	3,000
Totals	2,724,000	2,977,991	3,353,916	3,487,778	*Totals*	6,000	10,639	-	11,000

THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, ADYAR, CHENNAI 600 020

BUDGET AND ACTUALS 2019–2020, BUDGET 2020–2021, AND BUDGET 2021–2022

EXPENSE					INCOME				
Particulars	Budget 2019-2020	Actual 2019-2020	Budget 2020-2021	Budget 2021-2022	Particulars	Budget 2019-2020	Actual 2019-2020	Budget 2020-2021	Budget 2021-2022
Primary Cost Category					**Primary Cost Category**				
Theosophical Society	4,673,000	21,639,024	4,007,500	8,398,000	*Theosophical Society*	18,930,000	83,286,799	30,010,000	77,567,471
Propagation of Theosophy					**Propagation of Theosophy**				
Adyar Library and Research Centre	2,223,000	2,581,347	1,982,819	2,887,730	*Adyar Library and Research Centre*	358,000	483,487	843,000	525,000
Adyar Theosophical Academy	120,000	4,831,329	-	-	*Adyar Theosophical Academy*	-	357,249	-	-
Archives and Museum	1,339,000	677,120	383,199	878,534	*Archives and Museum*	-	2,459,713	275,000	3,000
Convention & Seminars	2,196,000	1,398,335	1,230,500	590,000	*Convention & Seminars*	487,000	337,417	2,430,500	750,000
Information and Public Relations	4,000	5,310	308,000	179,500	*Information and Public Relations*	-	-	-	-
School of the Wisdom	350,000	411,208	360,000	234,000	*School of the Wisdom*	-	34,241	-	-
Theosophy Science Centre	10,000	3,147	-	5,000	*Theosophy Science Centre*	-	-	-	-
The Theosophical Publishing House	1,485,000	4,587,228	100,000	4,880,312	*The Theosophical Publishing House*	4,290,000	3,836,426	5,864,831	4,570,000
The Theosophist & Adyar Newsletter	920,000	867,029	653,260	1,429,624	*The Theosophist & Adyar Newsletter*	440,000	156,351	430,000	148,000
Vasanta Press	350,000	303,608	450,300	897,801	*Vasanta Press*	100,000	256,644	125,000	125,000
Totals	8,997,000	7,572,347	5,468,078	9,069,247	*Totals*	5,675,000	7,921,527	9,968,331	6,121,000
Total Cost Categories	54,940,000	71,724,998	65,383,872	106,502,367	**Total Cost Categories**	31,221,000	106,942,068	48,646,271	94,527,471

Notes:

1) Budget includes a 5% payroll increase.

2) Budget includes interest on Damodor Gardens Security Deposit at a conservative 5% p.a.

3) Budget includes donations at a conservative amount.

4) Budget includes coverage of any deficit by funds held for the Society Internationaly.

Total Income	94,527,471
Less: Total Expenses	106,502,367
Plus: Utilization of Funds	13,064,896
Surplus/(Deficit) TS Budget	1,090,000
Plus: Capital Budget	(6,590,000)
Less: BMAD capital budget covered by Ketto Funds	5,500,000
Total Surplus/(Deficit) TS and Capital Budgets	-

THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, ADYAR, CHENNAI 600 020
CAPITAL BUDGET 2021–2022

Particulars	Amount	Amount
Adyar Library and Research Centre		
One desktop computer (for Director)	40,000	
One high-end photocopier	120,000	
Software for library management	75,000	**235,000**
Archives & Museum		
One desktop computer	40,000	
One scanner/printer	40,000	
Scanner/Printer	40,000	
A/C units	100,000	**220,000**
Free Dispensary		
Metal storage cabinets (for medicines)	60,000	**60,000**
General Manager's Office		
Software - CAD	80,000	**80,000**
Information and Public Relations		
Computer	40,000	
Printer/scanner	40,000	
Pamphlet racks	50,000	**130,000**
Treasury		
Desktop computer (Ramesh)	40,000	
Copier	120,000	
Filing cabinets	80,000	**240,000**
Vasanta Press		
Laptop	55,000	
Multifunction printer	20,000	**75,000**
BMAD (Covered by Ketto donations)		
Borewell, sump & water tank at BMAD	600,000	
Cattle Shed renovation	1,000,000	
Stables for horses	2,500,000	
Workers' Rooms with toilets	400,000	
Kitchen	200,000	
Fencing - BMAD	500,000	
Other renovations	300,000	**5,500,000**
Maintenance		
Storage Racks (2)	50,000	**50,000**
Total Capital Budget		**6,590,000**

HEADQUARTERS

ADYAR, CHENNAI 600 020

INDIA

OFFICERS AND HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS FOR 2020

Executive Committee:

1.	Mr Tim Boyd	*President*
2.	Dr Deepa Padhi	*Vice-President*
3.	Ms Marja Artamaa	*Secretary*
4.	Ms Nancy Secrest	*Treasurer*
5.	Mr Pradeep Gohil	*General Council Member*
6.	Mrs Jenny Baker	*General Council Member*
7.	Prof. C. A. Shinde	*General Council Member*
8.	Mr Jaikumar Kannan	*Member*
9.	Mr S. Harihara Raghavan	*Member*
10.	Mr A. L. Somayaji	*Member*

General Manager		Mr Jaikumar Kannan
Adyar Library	*Director (Sanskrit Studies)*	Mrs Radha Raghunathan (1 Nov 2019)
	Librarian	Prof. C. A. Shinde
Editorial	*Head*	Mrs Clemice Petter
Garden	*Acting Superintendent*	Mrs Vijaya Kumari
Housekeeping	*Superintendent*	Mrs Vijaya Ravindran
Leadbeater Chambers and Bhojanasala	*Superintendent*	Mrs Veena Ramachandran
Maintenance	*Hon. Superintendent*	Mr V. M. V. Narasimhan
Medical Service	*Doctor*	Dr R. Revathy
Museum and Archives	*Officer in Charge*	Ms Jaishree Kannan
Sanitation	*Superintendent*	Mrs Vijaya Ravindran
School of the Wisdom	*Director*	—
Security	*Superintendent*	Mr K. Ravindran
Theosophical Publishing House	*Manager*	Mr Jaikumar Kannan
Vasanta Press	*Manager*	Mr V. Gopalan

OLCOTT EDUCATION SOCIETY

	Chairman	Mr Tim Boyd
	Secretary	Mr Jaikumar Kannan
	Treasurer	Mr T. S. Jambunathan
Olcott Memorial School	*Headmistress*	Mrs R. Lalita
	Director	Dr P. Thirumalai
Social Welfare Centre	*Manager*	Mrs R. Mythili
Vocational Training Centre	*Director*	Mrs Sudha Natarajan
Besant Memorial Animal Dispensary	*Coordinator*	Mr Shravan Krishnan
HPB Hostel	*Warden*	Ms Janaki

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS 2020

National Societies and Sections	26
Regional Associations	11
Presidential Agencies	14
Lodges Attached to Adyar	10
Total Lodges	837
Total Centres	254
Total Membership 2019	23,957
Total Membership 2020	23,495

Section/Area	Number of Lodges	Centres	Members	
1. Africa, East and Central	5	-	127	S
2. Africa, South	6	-	105	S
3. Africa, West	11	-	242	S
4. America, Central	2	-	8	R
5. Argentina	17	7	290	S
6. Asia, East & South- east	4	-	453	P
7. Australia	10	8	737	S
8. Austria	3	-	59	R
9. Bangladesh	6	-	174	P
10. Belgium	8	-	62	S
11. Bolivia	8	-	70	P
12. Brazil	32	23	702	S
13. Canada	5	2	133	R
14. Chile	3	-	60	R
15. Colombia	5	3	22	P
16. Costa Rica	5	-	64	P
17. Cuba	12	-	573	S
18. Dominican Rep.	2	1	39	P
19. England	23	3	555	S
20. Finland	21	1	335	S
21. France	22	-	304	S
22. Germany	7	3	124	S
23. Greece	8	1	123	S
24. Hungary	3	-	34	P
25. Iceland	9	-	281	S
26. India	389	103	10,413	S
27. Indonesia	15	1	209	S
28. Ireland	2	-	89	R
29. Italy	27	17	833	S
30. Ivory Coast	no report			R
31. Mexico	9	5	120	S
32. Netherlands	10	6	357	S
33. New Zealand	12	5	565	S
34. Norway	1	-	15	R
35. Pakistan	no report		NA	P
36. Peru	2	-	30	P
37. Philippines	21	6	226	S
38. Portugal	10	2	118	S
39. Puerto Rico	3	-	43	P
40. Russia	9	-	168	P
41. Scotland	3	1	83	R
42. Slovenia	4	2	63	R
43. Spain	13	7	357	S
44. Sri Lanka	3	-	182	P
45. Sweden	6	-	160	S
46. Switzerland	2	-	26	P
47. Togo	2	-	18	R
48. Ukraine	8	1	109	S
49. Uruguay	5	-	54	R
50. USA	33	45	3,352	S
51. Venezuela	2	-	15	P
Subtotal	828	253	23,285	

Attached to Adyar	Lodges	Centres	Members	
1. Bolivia, Khana Wara	1	-	24	L
2. Croatia, Lotus Lodge	1	-	15	L
3. Ecuador, El Sol Lodge	-	-	-	L
4. France, Arc-en-ciel & Ananda Lodges	2	1	30	L
5. Israel, Covenant Lodge	1	-	68	L
6. Paraguay, Fraternidad	1	-	16	L
7. Qatar, H. P. Blavatsky Lodge	1	-	9	L
8. Slovenia, Blavatsky Lodge	1	-	14	L
9. USA, Orlando Lodge	1	-	15	L
10. Adyar, Fellows-at-Large	-	-	19	
Grand Total	**837**	**254**	**23,495**	

S= Section, R= Regional Association, A= Presidential Agency, L= Lodge attached to Adyar.
Ivory Coast, Mexico, Scotland, Togo and Ecuador have figures of previous year in the absence of fresh data

THE THEOSOPHICAL PUBLISHING HOUSE (TPH)

The Covid-19 pandemic resulted in a complete shutdown of sales from the last week of March to the middle of September 2020. During the period October 2019 to March 2020 the sale of books was good, both in India and abroad. Sales via Amazon continued to be good. The total sales figure for the one-year period from April 2019 to March 2020 was Rs 35.2 lakhs compared to Rs 40.9 lakhs of the previous year. The reduction in sales was due to the International Convention being held in Varanasi, because a significant amount of sales used to happen from the outlet at Adyar at that time. During the period October 2019 to September 2020, fifteen reprints were brought out.

Mr S. M. Umakanth Rao
Consultant

THE ADYAR LIBRARY AND RESEARCH CENTRE (ALRC)

With the aim of reviving the study of oriental literature, philosophy and religion, Col. Olcott, the Founder-President of the TS had set up the Centre with many old and rare manuscripts and printed books, including famous authors. There is a rare collection of manuscripts in the *Śārada* script. In addition to the Indian languages the Centre has many rare volumes in around 20 European and Asian languages. There is an Italian astronomy book from the 15th century, a multilingual Eurasian lexicon, a 600-year-old Quran, and many miniature books including a Bible. In November, **Dr Radha Raghunathan**, who was leading a 5-member research team, took over as Director from Dr T. Narayanan Kutty, who had to leave due to health issues.

Brahmavidyā — *The Adyar Library Bulletin*, Vol. 83 of 2019 was published and the long-pending UGC-CARE approval for the journal was obtained leading to its upgradation as a research journal of industry standards. Though the library had to be closed due to the Covid-19 lockdown, the Research Section continued working from home. The present year's journal will commemorate 550 years of Sikh founder Guru Nānak, 150 years of Mahatma Gandhi, 125 years of J. Krishnamurti, and the death centenary of Subramania Bharatiyar, renowned Tamil poet. Dr Raghunathan's *Paramatabhanga: An Exposition of Śri Vedānta Deśika's Critique of Non-Viśiṣṭādvaita Philosophies* was published. A book giving the solutions to *Āpastamba Śulba Sūtra* based on a manuscript is currently in progress.

Automation and digitization continued during the year with the scanning of 80 books, 80 palmleaf manuscript folios, 60 TRs, 19 printed books and 91 printed copies, in the categories of Jain Philosophy and Religion, Greater India (Indochina, Indonesia, Burma, Siam), Ancient Near East (Chaldea, Sumer,

Assyria, Babylon) Pamphlets, Reference (Research), Judaism, Tibetan and Central Asian (except Buddhism), Iranian (including Zoroastrianism), and Theosophy.

About 1500 books were accessed and 2000 catalogued and added to the Library collection. Around 90 books were received as gifts from the President's office, TPH, Secretary's office and others. From the conservation angle, 10 hard-cover and 20 soft-cover books were repaired, 200 bound, 200 photocopied, and 100 wrapper-pasted.

Prof. C. A. Shinde
Librarian

THE SCHOOL OF THE WISDOM

Four courses were conducted by the School of the Wisdom during the year. In November Dr Jose Foglia from Uruguay helped the students expand the knowledge of the human nervous system and deepen the understanding of the brain, one's reactions and habits of thought. Paul Smith from England led the next course in December introducing the Krishnamurtian dialogues where students were encouraged to explore and express their ideas, learn from one another and from their own reflections as well. This was followed by a course on meditation and guided practice by the Venerable Olande Ananda from Sri Lanka in January. The last course was during January-February by Elena Dovalsantos from USA who offered an introductory course on *The Secret Doctrine* and inspired further study by inviting the students to examine its relevance in their lives.

Mrs Nora Simon
Assisting, The School of the Wisdom

ARCHIVES AND MUSEUM

The new premises of the Surendra Narayan Archives, in the Adyar Library complex, was inaugurated by President the Tim Boyd in January. Originally called Adyar Archives, it was named after former Vice-President, Surendra Narayan, whose family had made a generous donation for its refurbishment. As the 2019 International Convention was held at Varanasi, the customary exhibition could not be held at Adyar. Due to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, no research scholars visited during this period and all exchanges were done online.

Dr Bernd Jesse joined the team in October as curator of the Blavatsky Museum. The focus has been on digitizing the museum catalogue comprising of work done by previous generations to research the provenance and document around 1100 items collected since the early years of the TS, many of which are on display inside the various showcases of the museum. This permits easy integration of donor's data, condition reports, and storage location with new photographs, making them available for viewing at the click of a button. Just by entering a few clues — to search for say, a President's or a Lodge's name, or the accession number

of a museum exhibit — information can be retrieved, or revised. There are numerous paintings inherited from the estate of the renowned art historian, Govindraj Venkatachalam of Bengaluru, who had worked at Adyar for Annie Besant's magazines and had later revealed the intimate connection between Adyar residents and Shantiniketan artists. These contacts covered many artistic and literary activities during the period now called the Indian Renaissance which have been receiving much scholarly attention of late. The museum invites the public to share any information they have to help enhance the available information.

Ms Jaishree Kannan
Officer in Charge

OLCOTT EDUCATION SOCIETY

OES has the responsibility of administering the Olcott Memorial Higher Secondary School, the Vocational Training Centre, the Social Welfare Centre, and the HPB Boys' Hostel.

The Olcott Memorial Higher Secondary School continued to make persuasive efforts for the integrated development of the students in attaining excellence in academics along with co-curricular activities. During this period students participated in interschool sports and cultural activities winning laurels at the district level. Social awareness events on issues like disaster management, evils of drug abuse, and so on, were organized with the help of experts in the respective areas. There were various awareness programmes for the students on topics such as preservation of eco-systems, child rights and so on. Leadership and communication skills training were imparted. National-day events were celebrated with emphasis on their historical importance, and students made speeches about some of the national leaders. Educational tours to places of historical importance enabled them to learn beyond the classroom. Project Day for students from class 1 to 8 was the highlight of the year where they exhibited their school lessons as working models and appreciation poured in for this event from parents and students from neighbouring schools. Empowerment programmes were conducted with expert guidance for updating the skills of teachers. Periodical meetings with parents helped to resolve student discipline issues.

On account of the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown, school was closed in March and the reopening schedule remains uncertain. In the meantime, teaching strategies were changed. Special training was given to teachers to equip themselves for the changes in the teaching process like virtual classroom using latest technologies. Students in classes 10 to 12 were provided computer tablets and the outcome has been successful. It is now proposed to extend the digital learning methodology to other classes as well.

The **Social Welfare Centre** caters to 46 children at present, taking care of their nutritional needs and engaging them with

play activities. The children and their parents participated in national functions like Independence Day and Republic Day.

The **Vocational Training Centre** has 24 students undergoing training in tailoring, weaving and other craft-related skills as part of women's empowerment. These units also remain locked down due to the pandemic situation since April 2020.

The **HPB Boys Hostel** started again with 3 students in July scaled up to 16 students by December. It has a congenial atmosphere to inculcate reading habits in students. Inmates were engaged in a few useful activities like cleanup of the school campus, spoken English training, and so on. The Hostel also remains suspended, due to Covid-19 till now.

Mr Jaikumar Kannan
Secretary

ADYAR THEOSOPHICAL ACADEMY

The Academy concluded its first academic year in March 2020 with 54 students in classes from Pre-K to Grade 2, a year full of activities, learning and adventures. The contact with Nature and a focus on arts to explore the creative side was an essential part of ATA's spirit and approach to education. Academics were supplemented with educational trips and project activities. The children's learning experience was made wholesome by integrating sports, theatre, music and arts. Life skills are a key focus at ATA. Children enjoy organic gardening and fireless cooking in equal measures. A lot of their learning revolved around Nature: be it insect studies or nature walks or observing the trees on the campus.

Many distinguished and other visitors and guests of Adyar visited the school and interacted with students, teachers and parents. In January ATA had its very first "Sports Day" on the grounds of Olcott Memorial School, with Tim Boyd as the chief guest, who hoisted the school flag and addressed the assembly. He emphasized sports as an integral part of learning and motivated children to participate with zeal and passion. Students gifted little mementos that were personally designed and created by them. There was also a school parade, a "parachute drill", and some field events and fun games.

The year ended with the celebration of the first Annual Day at the Adyar Theatre in March. Marja Artamaa, Secretary of the TS, was the chief guest. The program consisted of cultural expressions from India and the world, plays recreating life in the forest and care towards Nature, and songs that spoke of the unity of life and brotherhood, concluding with the School Song: "If We Hold on Together". However, just a week later the school had to close abruptly due to the pandemic.

The second academic year started in June with Grade 3 added and the strength became 110 students. The transition to online classes was made using the Zoom platform, which created opportunity for educators located in different locations to be on board. It also necessitated training for teachers to adapt and orient themselves via over 20 workshops exploring

alternative and child-centric approaches to experiential learning. More than imparting knowledge, ATA's focus has been on socio-emotional support in the virtual interactions with children to ensure that schooling continues conducively in the home environment. The creation of a personal journal has helped students to connect with themselves, their feelings and their own thought process. A highlight of the year was "Gratitude Week" — an exercise inculcating thankfulness in daily life through games, songs and art. ATA celebrated its first birthday in June, also online, with numerous guests joining in with felicitations.

Ms Sonal Murali
Administrator

BESANT MEMORIAL ANIMAL DISPENSARY

The year was very productive in spite of the Covid-19 pandemic. The team that started off with 1 vet and a caretaker four years ago has now become an army of 25 passionate workers, including 4 vets and 4 managers. A couple of the regular volunteers/rescuers have joined the workforce. On an average the dispensary has 200 in-house rescued animals and roughly 25 to 30 inpatient animals on any particular day. The team also manages outpatient cases of around 200 per month. BMAD rescued more than 600 animals, including large animals, during the year. New additions include beach horses and racehorses acquired from their original caretakers who did not have the facility to raise and feed them during the lockdown. Due to neglect the horses that were once admired for their beauty had become malnourished and weak, and took about 5–6 months of continuous care to become healthy again. In spite of the restrictions due to the lockdown and the risk of transmission, the team ensured that all animals including the ones that reside in the TS were fed and cared for.

With due support from the community through a fund collection platform "Ketto", BMAD successfully collected and used Rs 1.8 crores for renovating the facility to enhance space and provide infrastructure for efficient treatment of all animals. New additions using this fund included an X-ray machine, kennels for inpatient animals and a shed for in-house dogs. BMAD also got an ambulance for Rs 7.5 lakhs to rescue small and large animals, with the help of a kind sponsor. Many active sponsors have also been making smaller, yet significant, donations for medical and feed supplies.

Animal birth control programme has been successful with close to 1000 neutering surgeries completed during the year. With continued support from the TS and the community and through "Ketto" funds, the aim is to build better infrastructure for the growing large animal population.

Mr Shravan Krishnan
Coordinator

BESANT SCOUT CAMPING CENTRE

No report.

Besant Scout Camping Centre

THE THEOSOPHICAL ORDER OF SERVICE

TOS is present in 35 of the 59 countries where the TS is active and has several outreach avenues. *TOS: Intouch.online* is an e-newsletter published quarterly. The website <international.theoservice.org> and Facebook page <facebook.com/tosinternational> provide information about the TOS.

TOS Secretary, Nancy Secrest, gave talks at the Indo-Pacific Federation Conference held in the Philippines in November. Visits were made to the Golden Link College and to the opening of the new youth centre at the TS. January saw a trip to the New Zealand Section's Annual Convention with TS Vice-President, Deepa Padhi, where a TOS presentation was made. From March, many discovered the appeal of online meetings and talks across the world. The year saw the retire-ment of TOS Directors B. L. Bhattacharya in India, Usha Shah in Kenya and Martha Muñoz Forero in Colombia whose experience and dedicated service will be missed. K. Sivaprasad, former Secretary, TOS India, became the new Director in India.

Despite Covid-19, many TOS groups from around the world have devised ways to help those who need food and other assistance during the lockdown periods and beyond. TOS workers also maintained their usual projects to the best of their ability. Assistance with various women's issues, educational and scholarship efforts and youth involvement remain the central issues. Most are also active in animal welfare and supplying humanitarian assistance at individual and group levels. Most countries have healing groups too. To be noted is the presentation of an MBE (Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) award to Pam Evans of TOS England for her valuable work for interfaith relations through her Peace Mala Project.

"To live to benefit mankind is the first step."— H. P. Blavatsky, *The Voice of the Silence*, 144.

Mrs Nancy Secrest
International Secretary, TOS

REPORTS OF WORK

IN

NATIONAL SOCIETIES AND SECTIONS

REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

PRESIDENTIAL AGENCIES

LODGES ATTACHED TO ADYAR

(Where necessary, reports have been translated, edited or condensed)

NATIONAL SOCIETIES AND SECTIONS

AFRICA, EAST AND CENTRAL

Founded 1947, membership 127. Five Lodges in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, and Zambia make up the East and Central Africa Section. There has been a slight drop in membership. Getting new members has become difficult and all Lodges operate only due to the efforts of a few dedicated members. The Dar es Salaam Lodge had 6 meetings, the Nile Lodge in Kampala 8 meetings, and the rest weekly meetings during the year. There were also study classes and meditation sessions. Some of the studies/discussions were on "The Monad", *You* by Arundale, "Compassion", "Knowledge", "Patience", and so on. Some Lodges distributed/donated food, clothing, medical aid, students fees, and so on to the needy under the TOS. The important TS days were celebrated. The Section constitution revision process was completed and formally adopted.

Mr Narendra M. Shah
General Secretary

AFRICA, SOUTH

Founded 1909, membership 105. Though the Covid-19 pandemic and the lockdown has resulted in collapse of businesses and skyrocketing of unemployment, deaths have been lower than anticipated. Due to crime escalation Lodge meetings have moved to earlier time slots. After lockdown the 6 Lodges had opened but attendance was low. The Section continued sending articles to members as some were unable to attend meetings. Introduction of Sunday morning meetings in some Lodges has attracted the interest of new members. Membership remained same as previous year. The annual Convention planned in September in Pretoria had to be cancelled. A course on "Human Constitution, Its Makeup and Development" is being introduced through a shared multimedia discussion group.

Mr Desmond Douglas Chapman
Deputy General Secretary

AFRICA, WEST

Founded 1956, membership 242 (2017). No report.

Mr John Osmond Boakye
General Secretary

ARGENTINA

Founded 1920, membership 290. No report.

Mr Esteban Langlois
General Secretary

AUSTRALIA

Founded 1895, membership 737. The National Convention was held in Melbourne in January 2020 on "A Dialogue with the Universe: Science, Wisdom and Creativity" with featured speaker, Richard Silberstein. 31 presentations around the Section were done through the National Lecturing programme, before it was suspended in March due to Covid-19. Lodges and Certified Groups had regular meetings, studies and public programmes in the usual manner up to March. But this was managed to an extent by some innovative electronic methods of communication with members by our TS centres. The Section published a 314-page anthology of articles on Theosophy-Science by Dr Hugh Murdoch, an astrophysicist and founder of the Theosophy-Science Group. This was the culmination of a number of years of work on this project. An introductory video about the TS in Australia and some of its historically well-known members is being prepared. A one-day event was held in November at the Canyonleigh Centre in New South Wales on the theme, "The Treasures of India", with good attendance. Preparation of a bid is in progress for the conservation of koalas and other rare species in the Centre property. The National President attended the Indo-Pacific Conference at Manila in November and the 2019 International Convention in Varanasi, India, during December-January.

Mrs Linda Oliveira
General Secretary

BELGIUM

Founded 1911, membership 62. Regular weekly Lodge meetings based on theosophical texts, lectures, meditation courses and sessions and service work continued until mid-March 2020. A number of bigger events planned to take place during spring had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. A regular monthly video of a lecture by J. Krishnamurti was showed followed by a discussion by the attendants till March. A tribute was paid to the former General Secretary, Henriette van der Hecht, who passed away in May at the age of 99. The Belgian TS was represented at the International Convention at Varanasi, during December–January. The restoration and installation of a beautiful, unique and precious stained glass, dating back to the beginning of the last century, is being evaluated.

Mrs Sabine Van Osta
General Secretary

BRAZIL

Founded 1920, membership 702. TS in Brazil with 32 Lodges and 24 Groups celebrated its centenary in November, with a week of lectures, cultural events, photography exhibition, and a theosophical presentation by renowned pianist Andre Frazunkiewicz. On the occasion, a commemorative book, *Theosophy, The Truth of All Ages: 100 Years of the TS in Brazil* was launched. The 39th Summer School took place in January in Teresopolis on "Introduction to Yoga: An Esoteric Approach" with 79 participants. Due to the Covid-19 situation, the International Theosophical School and Winter Seminar were held during July–August via the virtual Zoom platform on the theme, Science and Spirituality with 338 parti-cipants, including from other countries. President, Tim Boyd, and eminent scientist Rupert Sheldrake were speakers. Also two virtual, national programs were launched, Online Groups of Theosophical Studies and Virtual Study Groups with Books, for continuing the activities unhindered. The library has a new system and videos are made available on a TV channel as well as the website <sociedadeteosofica.org.br> A program that includes lectures for managing depression and preventing suicides is in place in partnership with the University of Brasilia. TPH published 6 books during the year. *Sophia* magazine entered its 17th year and 4000 copies are distributed via newsstands.

Mr Sergio Carvalho de Moraes, Jr
General Secretary

CUBA

Founded 1905, membership 573. The annual convention was held in Janaury on the theme, "Peace". The quarterly magazine, *Revista Teosofica Cubana*, continued to be published. Studies in Lodges continued but suspended in March. From September 2019 to March 2020 the "Basic Course of Theosophy" was held. All meetings and sessions were cancelled since March to comply with Covid-19 protocol. All Lodges celebrated the official dates of the Society, Founders' Day, Adyar Day, and so on, with the exception of White Lotus Day. In Cuba, the members of the TS have no possibilities of arranging online activities.

Mr Carlos Vicente Fernández Pérez
General Secretary

ENGLAND

Founded 1888, membership 555. The year began as usual with the Section and the Lodges holding members' study groups, meditations and public lectures. The books studied included *The Secret Doctrine*, *The Key to Theosophy* and *The Perfect Way* by Anna Kingsford. In February, Gary Lachman gave a talk on "The Life and Works of Colin Wilson" and in March Anne Kelly gave an inspiring talk on "Living Theosophy". Since the Covid-19 restrictions and the lockdown, many meetings, studies and talks have gone online. The National President issued monthly newsletters to maintain contact with all members in these difficult times. Headquarters was closed at the end of March to all apart from essential staff, and the 39th Congress of the European Federation of Theosophical Societies was postponed until August 2021. The online Foundation and Higher Diploma Courses on Theosophy continued to attract members and others around the world. These courses are now being translated into Russian. The magazine, Esoterica, which is distributed to members and the wider public, will be issued thrice annually from this autumn. In October the Welsh Regional Association merged with the English Section.

Mrs Jenny Baker
General Secretary

FINLAND

Founded 1907, membership 335. The annual general meeting was held peacefully in Kreivilä on 4 July after being postponed from April due to the coronavirus pandemic. The main event of the year was the Summer School in Kreivilä on 35 July with the theme "The Eternal Wisdom and the Present Moment". During the course members gave talks and lectures on intuition, compassion and wisdom. There were three other events in Kreivilä: course on "The Healing Powers of the Nature — and other Secrets", a Lodges weekend and a silent retreat. In Estonia the local Lodges arranged the Estonian Summer School on "Peace within Me". They also had a winter seminar in Tartu in January, The Secret Doctrine study days in Tartu in March, and an autumn study camp in Aegvidu in August. Otherwise activities continued as before with regular Lodge studies, public lectures, seminars and courses around the country, excluding the lockdown break from March till August. A big book fair in Southern Finland was attended. A few major events were cancelled due to Covid-19.

Mr Janne Vuononvirta
General Secretary

FRANCE

Founded 1899, membership 304. At the TS France, activities were regular up to the lockdown in March. Bi-monthly courses attracted regular participants to the Headquarters in Paris. Silent Retreats took place once a trimester; meditation sessions

were organised monthly. There were public lectures and introduction courses to Tai Chi. The Section reacted quickly to the pandemic situation and began to organize programmes on Zoom. The general online presence has grown, including Facebook, YouTube and weekly e-newsletters. This has permitted more attendees from a number of countries to participate in the programmes. The bookshop has been closed since the beginning of the lockdown, although clients have been able to order books online, by phone and by post. Due to disruptions in postal services, in April, the monthly TS France magazine *Le Lotus Bleu* was published in electronic form, and since then some members and subscribers prefer to receive it by email only. The National Convention, usually organised in June, was postponed to October 2020, and took place on Zoom.

Mrs Jeannine (Nano) Leguay
General Secretary

GERMANY

Founded 1902, membership 124. The Northern German Autumn Meeting was held in November in Barendorf near Lüneburg with 14 people attending and talks on various topics. The Northern German Spring Meeting as well as the main event of the year, the Summer School, had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 crisis. Manuela Kaulich was elected again as General Secretary for the 5th time. The Southern German Meeting was held in September with talks and discussions on healing themes attended by 16 persons. During the pandemic all group meetings had to be cancelled. So, all members were gifted Geoffrey Hodson's *Meditation on the Occult Life* and Peter and Katarina Michel's *The Universal Healing Field* for private study. Also, book passages, quotes, and book and movie recommendations were posted on the website as suggestions for study during the shutdown. Two healing groups meet twice a month on the basis of TOS work. The magazine *Adyar* includes all national and international events and was published thrice a year. Back copies are available on the website.

Mrs Manuela Kaulich
General Secretary

GREECE

Founded 1926, membership 123. Foundation Day and Adyar Day were celebrated in the traditional manner, but White Lotus Day was not possible due to the Covid-19 lockdown. The General Assembly had to be postponed from March to July, when the new Administrative Council was elected. Two international theosophical conferences were held in October, the History of Theosophy Conference in Athens and the European School of Theosophy Conference in Eretria, Evia, with participation from 20 countries. In January, two Lodges, Helios

and Orpheus, have twinned with the Leeds Lodge in UK. The quarterly magazine, Ilisos, which is free, has 200 subscribers, but only two issues were published during the year. Volume 2 of the Besant Leadbeater book, *Talks on the Path of Occultism* (Greek title: *The Art of Occultism*) is being printed. Translation of Volume 3 continues. Till March 2020 there were regular Lodge and Study Group meetings with lectures and discussions on various theosophical topics.

Dr Alexandros Bousoulengas
General Secretary

ICELAND

Founded 1921, membership 281 (2019). The Summer School planned in June had to be cancelled due to Covid-19, as the Annual General Meeting of the Section. There are 9 active Lodges. The Friday evening lectures, and the Saturday afternoon member meetings followed by video/discussion continued till 8th February. These are open to the public and had good attendance. A few Lodges had their inner meetings. The lecturers are decided by the Board from a list after discussion with the Heads of the Lodges, who suggest the original list. The lecturers are often members of the TS, but also various scholars, writers, artists, psychologists, university professors, and so on. Some topics of talks during the year were "The Wheel of Life", "What Does Krishnamurti Mean?", "What is Life?", "Ahimsa for the 21st century", "Cremation Rituals", "A Journey with the Ashes of My Mother to India", "Transformation through Dance", "Mindfulness in Children's Education", "Consciousness and the Effect of Our Thoughts on Our Bodies", "Pythagoras and His School at Crotona", and so forth. *Gangleri*, the theosophical journal, continued to be published as earlier. Books are available for sale. The library has over 5000 titles. The tri-annual newsletter *Mundilfari* carried the schedule of talks and meetings as also news from TS abroad. The website <lifspekifelagid.is> contains all information on TS in Iceland.

Mr Jón Ellert Benediktsson
General Secretary

INDIA

Founded 1891, membership 10,413. The focus area for improvement during the year was to increase the income of the Section as compared to propagation of Theosophy in the previous year and adminstration the year before. To this purpose, a dilapidated building was replaced by a modern, 4 storey building called "Harmony", half of which was rented out, resulting in a payback period of just over 2 years. Also the "Suryashram" guest house was renovated. These two buildings can accommodate 124 persons along with 76 in the old guest houses, for conferences, study camps, and so on. The goal-based process for the propagation of Theosophy

instituted in the previous year had an overall average achievement percentage of 63% giving scope for further improvement. The Annual National Study Camp was held in the Headquarters at Varanasi in October on "The Teachings of Theosophy and J. Krishnamurti", directed by Prof. P. Krishna, who has been a member of the TS and a senior functionary of the Krishnamurti Foundation India, with around 80 participants. Dr Annie Besant's contribution to Theosophy was mentioned during her birthday celebration meeting on 1 October.

The highlight of the year was the extensive renovation of the 1500-seater Radha Burnier Amphitheatre at the Headquarters. It was inaugurated by Tim Boyd on 31 December, prior to the start of the 144th International Convention of the TS, and the hallmark was the lighting of candles by the entire audience within 4 minutes, from the flame lit at the dais, symbolizing how light and love can pass from one to the other. The Convention being held at Varanasi after a gap of 30 years was a success with a record 1500 registered delegates, and facilities like both Indian and Western food similar to the LBC fare at Adyar, tea stalls, fruit stall, convenience store, dress stall, electric vehicles conveying delegates from stay área to the amphitheatre and back, and so on. Though the offices were closed due to the Covid-19 lockdown, all employees and contract workers were paid during the period. Efforts towards securing the title of the 17-acre land where the Headquarters is situated is ongoing. Eleven issues of the monthly magazine, *Indian Theosophist*, could be published during the year. The admission form for new members can be downloaded from the website, <theosophy-india.org>, which was upgraded during the year, resulting in the doubling of visitors.

The 128th Annual Convention was held at Varanasi in January on the theme "Kindle the Spark Within", with Tim Boyd in the chair. Pedro Oliveira introduced the theme and the five speakers who dealt with its various aspects. Pradeep Gohil whose services in the past three years were widely appreciated was reelected as President till 2023. The Treasurer V. Narayanan who had served with distinction was also reelected for two years. The meetings to commemorate Besant's birthday, Foundation Day and Adyar Day were held as usual on the appropriate dates, but White Lotus Day could not be celebrated on account of the strict Covid measures. The customary Easter Theosophical Conference (formerly known as the South Indian Conference) planned for the Easter weekend had to be cancelled due to Covid. The Annual Study Camp on "The Teachings of Theosophy and J. Krishnamurti" was held in October at the Headquarters in Varanasi directed by Prof. P. Krishna and attended by 79 persons. The reference book for study was *A Jewel on a Silver Platter* by P. Krishna. Study camps organized at the Himalayan Study Centre in Bhowali between April and June by 9 Federations on various topics had to be cancelled due to Covid, as also various study classes

and camps planned in other parts of India.

A fifteen-hour, intensive certificate course on "Self-Realization through Theosophy" was conducted in January for students to acquaint them with the concept of Theosophy, its significance, in the contemporary chaos, in promoting confidence and strength to meet the challenges of life, and obtain harmony and peace. The centenary conference and celebrations of the Uttar Pradesh Federation was held in October inaugurated by Tim Boyd. A similar conference planned by the Telugu Federation in March had to be cancelled due to Covid. K. Sivaprasad took over from B. L. Bhattacharya, who had served for fourteen years, as National Director of the Theosophical Order of Service.

Mr Pradeep H. Gohil
General Secretary

INDONESIA

Founded 1912, membership 209 (2017). No report.

Mr Widyatmoko
General Secretary

ITALY

Founded 1902, membership 833. The Section website, <teosofica.org>, attracted over 6,500 monthly surfers with significant increases during the lockdown period. A monthly newsletter is emailed to over 3,800 people interested in the activities in Italy. Books published during the year included the following: *Happiness Now* by Pang Way, *The Astral Plane* by Leadbeater, Besants *In the Outer Court* and *A Study in Consciousness*, and *The Process of Self-Transformation* by Hao Chin Jr. An important initiative was an introductory course in Theosophy and the TS which includes classroom, Zoom and recorded lessons. The response exceeded all expectations and a second one is in progress. The 27 Groups and 17 Centres had both members-only meetings as well as public conferences. An Italian delegation participated in the International Convention at Varanasi. The joint Theosophy seminar with the European Federation and Swiss Section planned in Ascona had to be cancelled. The Seminar for Theosophical Workers, Part 2, was held in Milan in November on "Pragmatics of Communication". The activities of the Society were explained in a radio interview by the General Secretary. A two-day seminar on "Teachings on Meditation" in December took place when Kalu Rinpoche visited. The Covid situation has actually increased participation as all conferences, and even weekly meetings were done online.

Mr Antonio Girardi
General Secretary

MEXICO

Founded 1919, membership 120. The Section participated in establishing the online Magna School of Wisdom of the Inter-American Federation where Tim Boyd gave the opening message. Due to the Covid situation, the members had the opportunity of pariticipating in most of the courses and conferences conducted in Spanish around the world. Foundation Day and Adyar Day were commemorated in the usual manner. White Lotus Day was celebrated via the Internet. After some consolidation, upgradation and rearrangement there are 9 Lodges and 4 Study Centres now.

Mr Enrique Sanchez Arrieta
General Secretary

THE NETHERLANDS

Founded 1896, membership 357. The Garden of Remembrance at the International Theosophical Centre (ITC), Naarden, is being renovated. A refurbished guest house, Lotus House, was opened in November. Some creative projects are being planned for "after Covid-19". The General Members meeting happened in October and the National Board met six times during the year. The headquarters is open to the public on Wednesdays through Saturdays. The 21,000-book library is linked to the Lodges and ITC, Naarden. The bookshop sells books mostly online from Adyar Books, TPH London, and Quest. Based on the theme of the Third Object of TS, there were two speaking events with four speakers each, "Religious and Mystical Experiences" in November and "Rituals and Healing" in February with 80 and 100 participants respectively. The quarterly magazine, *Theosofia*, also published on the website <theosofie.nl>, carried articles by many prominent people. The 10 Lodges and 7 Centres had many activities including lectures, study and meditation.

Mr Wim Leys
General Secretary

NEW ZEALAND

Founded 1896, membership 565. Though Covid-19 was a hurdle to many initiatives planned at the beginning of the year due to the lockdowns, the usage of social media such as Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube as tools to create greater awareness has turned out to be quite successful. The National Convention was held in January on the theme "One Heart, One Breath, One World", where Vice-President, Deepa Padhi, and Treasurer, Nancy Secrest, were guest speakers. The Annual School of Theosophy conducted by Jacques Mahnich from France in October was well received and he also gave presentations at the Branches. A seven-part online course exploring "Theosophy in Todays World" has been made available through <udemy.com> and has over 400 participants at present.

Mr John Vorstermans
General Secretary

THE PHILIPPINES

Founded 1933, membership 226. The Indo-Pacific Federation Conference was held in November in Manila at short notice due to cancellation of the same in Malaysia. It was attended by the President, Secretary and Treasurer who were all visiting the Philippines for the first time. Free Space, a youth and well-being centre, was inaugurated and they visited the Golden Link Colleges. The February eruption of the Taal volcano and the ensuing heavy ashfall in the surrounding areas including Manila were an opportunity for the TOS to provide support for the evacuees. There was a strategic planning meeting in March where priority areas were identified. Leadership and speaker training, usage of social media to create "brand TS", youth programs, member services, stress management and well-being centre, new schools were areas of focus. The lockdowns proved to be a blessing because of better participation in meetings and tighter bonds from all over the world.

Mr Charlton Jules Romero
General Secretary

PORTUGAL

Founded 1921, membership 118. The fortnightly meetings and commemoration of traditional days happened till March when due to Covid-19 the alternative, the usage of videoconferencing, was adopted.

A continually updated website, a regular newsletter, and social networks like Facebook are being used to maintain communication with members and impart information. A major objective has been to motivate members and to attract new sympathizers by encouraging the spirit of questioning and the spontaneous contribution from participants.

Mr Carlos Guerra
General Secretary

SPAIN

Founded 1921, membership 357. Since all activities have been restricted due to the situation caused by the pandemic, the digital platform has not only managed to continue most of the activities but also enhanced the participation and scope of activities from all over the world, mainly the Spanish-speaking part of it. Of the three main annual events the Silent Retreat was conducted in December by Tran-Thi-Kim-Dieu, the European Federation President, on the topic, "Heart Sutra", attended by 50 people. The Iberian Days event traditionally held in conjunction with the Portuguese Section had to be cancelled. The Summer School in August was held using the digital platform on the theme, "Theosophy: Paradigm and Transformation", with 300 participants from various countries. Jaishree Kannan from Adyar had visited in October 2019 offering a "Mantrams" workshop.

Mrs Angels Torra-Buron
General Secretary

SWEDEN

Founded 1895, membership 160. The quarterly magazine, *Tidlös visdom* (Timeless Wisdom), is distributed to members free of cost. Public lectures, group studies, and Saturday workshops were held during autumn of 2019. A TS weekend was conducted in November on the theme "Reincarnation and Karma" with twenty participants. Other events were member gatherings on 17 November, Foundation Day, and the Christmas party in December. Though all planned activities had to be cancelled since March, some study groups with limited participation have resumed in autumn 2020. *Raja Yoga* by Wallace Slater was translated into Swedish and published. The bookshop is open twice a week. The website, <teosofiskasamfundet.se>, and the Facebook group are active and popular. The TOS group supports "Mango Tree", a school Project in Goa, India, for slum children.

Mrs Birgitta Skärbo
General Secretary

UKRAINE

Founded 2013, membership 109. The General Secretary was re-elected for a three-year term. There were 8 Branches and 1 online study group with regular meetings studying classical theosophical literature. The annual convention of the Section was held in November in Kiev with over 40 participants on the theme "In the Field of Truth and Beauty". Also, an institute of national lecturers of Ukraine with seven members was established. White Lotus Day was celebrated on 8 May, online and via physical meetings. Blavatsky's 189th birthday was celebrated on 12 August with an online conference on "Bringing the Light". Participants were from all over the world and a video recording is available on YouTube. Weekly online lectures were held in the summer of 2020. The mobile exhibition on HPB, "Inexhaustible Source", continued around the country. The Blavatsky cultural centre in Pavlynka, Odessa, was renovated. The scientific group held an online, interdisciplinary conference in May on "Spiritual Aspects of Modern Worldview" with international participation. Two issues of the bilingual magazine, *Theosophy and Science*, were published. Information is available on the website, <theosophy.in.ua>, Facebook, and You Tube. *Svitoch*, e-magazine, published six issues.

Mrs Svitlana Gavrylenko
General Secretary

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Founded 1886, membership 3352. In mid-March 2020, every-thing stopped due to the pandemic and headquarters was closed, anticipating a two-week closure. Staff continued to be paid, but after remaining closed for five weeks and with little to no income and continuing expenses, two-thirds of the staff had to be furloughed. A special call for help was put out to members and friends of the TS in America and

the response was amazing. Many staff members have since returned to work. In mid-March, all face-to-face programs moved to an online format. The Thursday night lectures have continued; they are live-streamed weekly and then placed on YouTube. A weekly online meditation has been added, as also an electronic Daily Seed Thought. For the coming year, theosophical programs will continue to be provided online, reallocating staff in some areas. The audiences have actually increased, because the programs are now available around the world.

The HSO Memorial Library worked with theosophical libraries in various countries to resolve collection gaps, increased membership by 23 percent from last year, and began making audio recordings and textual resources more readily available online, especially through <www.archive.org>. Over 900 items have been digitized and viewed over 13,000 times. The archives department received donations of archival materials. Digitization projects continue as also providing information on a huge range of topics. The <Theosophy.wiki> encyclopedia continues to expand online resulting in over 30,000 page views each month by users globally. The IT department did a network upgrade and redesigned the <theosophical.org> website to simplify navigation. It also supports projects, like the new Online School of Theosophy <study.theosophical.org>, around the world. The AV department continued to post videos on YouTube <youtube.com/user/TheosophicalSociety> with about 75,000 subscribers. The Theosophical Publishing House in Wheaton is focusing on production of audiobooks of classic theosophical titles and sales through Amazon/Audible. The Quest Book Shop offers 40 percent discount on all products available on <questbooks.com> and had its most successful year in terms of numbers of visitors and sales.

Most study groups have shifted to virtual meetings via Zoom. The prison program continues to provide assistance across the country, offering prisoners books, gift memberships, and correspondence courses and over 450 prisoners have completed one or more courses.

Dr Barbara Hebert
General Secretary

REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

AMERICA, CENTRAL

Founded 1929, membership 8 (2019). No report.

Mrs Beatriz Elisena Martinez Pozas
Organizing Secretary

AUSTRIA

Founded 1891, membership 59. The three Lodges of Austria with 59 registered members (2 members directly attached to the Section) continued with their weekly lectures and other activities. The annual meeting was held in March 2020 at Graz. Some of the members attended the summer school of the TS in Germany.

Mr Albert Schichl
Organizing Secretary

CANADA

Founded 1924, membership 133. All in-person meetings scheduled to be held in 2020 had to be cancelled due to the unprecedented global crisis caused by Covid-19. In a world of duality the good side has been the ability to adapt. All Lodges and the Section, however, continued to have online meetings and some even continued throughout the summer. The National Convention in August was held on the Zoom platform and attracted one of the greatest attendances ever. The topic was "The Ego, Its Composition, Its Mechanism, and Its Transformation", which was done in both English and French. The 2021 Convention will in all likelihood be online again. This new-found ability to reach out and communicate with not only the widespread membership but also people in other countries has inspired the development of several new projects. Some members have embraced the task of re-inventing the old website and it is expected to be launched in December 2020. Change and a wave of new-found energy are expected to meet all challenges with hope and enthusiasm.

Mrs Maryse DeCoste
Organizing Secretary

CHILE

Founded 1920, membership 60. Due to social protests during October-December and Covid-19 since mid-March to September, TS activity had to be suspended during a large part of the year. A positive outcome has been the usage of online meeting methods. The motto for the period was "Compassion: Inner Work to Life".

The special dates were commemorated through virtual greetings. The Lodges had regular meetings, mostly online, and studied books such as *Theosophy Explained* by Pavri, HPB's *The Key to Theosophy*, and Clara Codd's *Meditation: Its Practice and Results*. They also discussed issues related to spirituality in Man. A members-only workshop was conducted on Barborka's *The Divine Plan*. Theosophy classes were conducted for the general public with good attendance, and 7 participants became members. In July, an online group was formed to study HPB's *The Secret Doctrine*.

Mr Víctor Aguayo Acuña
Organizing Secretary

IRELAND

Founded 1919, membership 89. The two Lodges, Belfast Lodge and Phoenix Lodge, Dublin, had a successful, blessed and harmonious year of meetings until the Covid-19 lockdown. The 15th All Ireland Convention in Dublin in May had to be cancelled. Nevertheless, contact was maintained with all the members every week, sending on theosophical programmes and newsletters from countries abroad including Adyar, US, Philippines, Europe, and so on. A weekly selection of uplifting extracts from theosophical and spiritual texts was also part of the communication. Each member received attachments of TS news worldwide and study notes from texts such as *The Bhagavadgita* and *The Voice of the Silence* and even covering the whole basis of Theosophy. The membership grows as a result of a number of enquiries through the <theosophyireland.com> website.

Ms Marie Harkness
Organizing Secretary

IVORY COAST

Founded 1997, membership not known. No report.

Mr Pierre-Magloire Kouahoh
Organizing Secretary

NORWAY

Founded 1913, membership 15. The Organizing Secretary was newly elected in the current year. Stroemmen is the active local group of the TS and Dharma is the sole Lodge. *The Secret Doctrine* is being studied in Dharma Lodge four times a year. Due to Covid-19, meetings were conducted using Skype and only a maximum of six persons were allowed to meet physically following government instructions.

Mr Jan Olsen
Organizing Secretary

SCOTLAND

Founded 1910, membership 83. Until the lockdown in March 2020, the Lodges and Study Groups functioned normally, organizing talks and meditation gatherings. Despite the unprecedented situation, the members of some Lodges have been

having their events online using Zoom, WhatsApp and other social media. But they miss the intimacy, social cohesion, and spiritual symbiosis provided by live meetings and look forward to the resumption of normal activity.

Mr Gary Kidgell
Organizing Secretary

SLOVENIA

Founded 1992, membership 63. The Organizing Secretary was re-elected in June. Of the 4 Lodges and 2 Study Centres, information about 3 Lodges is not available as reports were not received. Lodge Surya Dawn studied the classical theosophical books and articles from *The Theosophist* and *Theosophy Forward*. The Study Centres were meeting fortnightly till the March lockdown. The autumn school was organized in November led by Tran-Thi-Kim-Dieu on the theme, "The Path to the True Nature of Man", with 26 attendees. The summer school had to be cancelled. Most of the memorial days were observed, but White Lotus Day on 8 May could not be celebrated. Instead a special Blavatsky issue of the brochure *Theosophical Thought* was published. It is available on the website, <teozofskodrustvo.si>.

Mrs Irena Primc
Organizing Secretary

TOGO

Founded 1997, membership 18. The members studied *The Doctrine of the Heart* by Annie Besant. The national convention was held in August 2019 with 16 participants. There were presentations on mantras, Gayatri, and the life of bodies. Full moon meditation happens in groups. Though some theosophical material is received from France and so on, French language books and magazines would be useful.

Mr Kouma Dakey
Organizing Secretary

URUGUAY

Founded 1925, members 54. Regular activities were held from October 2019 to April 2020. During the lockdown period virtual meetings were held once a week on the same day and time. Some books for study were *The Secret Doctrine*, J. Krishnamurti's *The Creative State of Mind* and *On the Mind and Thoughts*, Shakti Gawain's *Path of Transformation*, and so on. Videos of Mario Alonso Puig, Mario Saban, Krishnamurti, Sadhguru, E. Carrillo, J. Dispenza, Isaac Jauli, and so on were exhibited too. Though due to pandemic all conferences were cancelled, members and well-wishers were invited to attend conferences organized by FTI and other Spanish-speaking Sections. TOS in Uruguay has three main activities in their agenda — to donate wheelchairs, donation to animal shelters and Chi Kung classes for living a holistic life.

Mrs Ema Ma. de Souza Leal
Organizing Secretary

PRESIDENTIAL AGENCIES

ASIA, EAST AND SOUTH-EAST

Founded 1990, membership 453. The Agency is made up of 4 Lodges, one each in Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar and Singapore. The Singapore and Myanmar Lodges were initiated by Col. H. S. Olcott, and are among the oldest in the TS world. Website: <theosophyasia.net>

The Nippon Lodge in **Japan**, formed in 1972, has 30 members. They have online monthly webinars. Two books were published in Japanese. *The Ocean of Theosophy* is being translated into Japanese. Website: <theosophy.jp>

The Selangor Lodge in **Malaysia** (formed 1929) is open to members and the public on Saturdays. Meetings are held in the afternoon with reading sessions, talks and discussions followed up by satsangs, healing and meditation sessions, and teachings in the evening. The restrictions imposed by Covid-19 were pleasantly offset by the online talks and meetings held by various groups globally. Website: <theosophiaselangorlodge.weebly.com>

The Olcott Lodge in **Myanmar** founded in 1885 received the confirmed registration certificate by the government. Most of the activities had to be curtailed due to Covid-19 restrictions; still Adyar Day, Wesak Day, and White Lotus Day were celebrated although with limited attendance.

The **Singapore** Lodge formed in 1889 has the largest membership and held weekly meetings and study classes till end-March. The 47th edition of "A Course in Theosophy" was held during November-December and 16 new members joined. Foundation Day and Lodge Anniversary Day were celebrated. Activities were suspended for 18 weeks when online meetings were conducted jointly with Philippines. They were resumed with adequate precautions from August. Websites: <singaporelodge.org> and <chinesetheosophy.net> in Chinese language.

Mr Chong Sanne
Presidential Representative

BANGLADESH

Founded 2013, membership 174. The birth anniversary of Annie Besant and Mahatma Gandhi were cele-brated on 1 and 2 October respectively. Five members attended the International Convention held at Varanasi. The historical Comilla Lodge building taken over by local authorities has been protected. Diplomas for 37 members have been issued during the year. From mid-March 2020, virtual meetings and seminars are being held.

Mr B. L. Bhattacharyya
Presidential Representative

BOLIVIA

Founded 1965, membership 70. No Report

Mrs Sonia Montecinos Rojas
Presidential Representative

COLOMBIA

Founded 1937, membership 22. Theosophist Day (1 September), Foundation Day, Wesak Day, White Night (28 December), and Adyar Day were celebrated. There was a special candlelight ceremony for new members on Theosophist Day. There were four lectures for university students before the pandemic. Enrique Reig visited from Mexico and gave a public lecture on "Conquering Emotional Health". There has been an effort to promote study groups outside of Bogota. An instance of this is a forum called "Between Fear and Love" which is made up especially of young people.

Mr Antonio Martinez Segura
Presidential Representative

COSTA RICA

Founded 1997, membership 64. Regular activities of the Lodges such as meetings and discussions were held as usual, except that during March to September they had to be held using electronic means via the Internet. Some videos and talks were sourced from Spain, Argentina and Brazil. Based on popular demand, a basic course in Theosophy has been started by some Lodges for newcomers and non-members.

Mrs Ligia Montiel
Presidential Representative

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Founded 1987, membership 39. Two Lodges and a study group make up the Agency. Members are dedicated, active and sincere in their studies. A workshop was conducted in October 2019 on the theme "The Upanishads". Due to pandemic meetings, conferences and lectures are now being conducted virtually. An introductory course on Theosophy has been started for newcomers.

Mrs Magaly Polanco
Presidential Representative

HUNGARY

Founded 1907, membership 34. Of the three Lodges in Hungary, one is active. Two new books were published, *The Key to Theosophy* and *Self-Transformation*. In total, 37 different theosophical books are available in the Hungarian language. The public lectures are recorded and available (65 as on date) on YouTube channel of TS. A new website with a new design is made containing about 170 downloadable translations of the classic as well as new theosophical literature.

Mr Janos Szabari
Presidential Representative

PAKISTAN

Founded 1948, membership not available. No report sent.

Mr Bhagwan Bharvani
Presidential Representative

PERU

Founded 1924, membership 30. The two Lodges of Peru conducted all their regular meetings including studies on important books between October 2019 and March 2020. Foundation, Adyar, and White Lotus Days were celebrated. There was a large Christmas party as well. All get-togethers were jointly done by the two Lodges. After March, some programs were held on the virtual platform. A total of 15 public talks were held during the year.

Mr Julio Gerardo Pomar
Presidential Representative

PUERTO RICO

Founded 1925, membership 43. The three Lodges have been coping with the pandemic by having regular meetings and theosophical studies on the virtual platform. There is an older population that has difficulty with the new modes of communication. In such cases a unique way of maintaining touch has been by individual telephonic studies. In October Juliana Cesano from the US held a workshop on "The Path of the Mystic: Essential Pillars for Spiritual Development" and facilitated a public conference on "The Mystery of the Heart Revealed in Eternal Wisdom". Many members in South America, the Caribbean and Florida have been benefited by the virtual public lectures and conferences offered by the Spanish-speaking lodges. Excerpts from theosophical study books are shared to enable daily meditation.

Mrs Magaly Polanco
Presidential Representative

RUSSIA

Founded 2013, membership 168. A united online platform of the Theosophical Society in Russia was created in Zoom for holding all official TS events. President of the Inter-American Theosophical Federation, Isis Resende, visited several times and gave a series of lectures on Theosophy. In May, a weekly All-Russian online lecture program on Theosophy began its work. Many international lecturers of the TS gave talks. A cycle of 20 Theosophical webinars were organized, titled "Meetings with Ukrainian Theosophists" which lasted from May to September. A Russian online meditation course, "Theosophy and Life", started from September 2020. A Moscow Theosophical Conference was held online with

the participation of international speakers and viewers. A Siberian Theosophical Center is being constructed in Altai via crowdfunding. The official YouTube channel of TS Russia was redesigned with over 130 videos. Some books published in Russian are 2 volumes of W. Q. Judge's works, the Würzburg manuscript of *The Secret Doctrine* by H. P. Blavatsky, *Theosophy in the Qabbalah* by Grace F. Knoche, *The Light of Asia* by E. Arnold, and *Gems from the East* by H. P. Blavatsky. The Russian edition of T*he Theosophist magazine* started its work. The Russian theosophical journal *Modern Theosophical Thought* is published twice a year. In November, the Russian Theosophical Congress took place, attended by over 100 listeners. Online publication of HPB's personal archive has begun.

Mr Alexey Besputin
Presidential Representative

SRI LANKA

Founded 1926, membership 182 (2017). No report.

Mr D. A. L. Wanigasekera
Presidential Representative

SWITZERLAND

Founded 1910, membership 26. In a structured manner, the Agency carried on their regular work. The highlight was a seminar in collaboration with the European Federation and the Italian Section. The Assembly of the Switzerland TS was held in September 2020. Cantons also carried on vigorously with their activities. Fortnightly meetings are organized in the Lugana Study Group. Because of Covid-19, members are meeting through a specially created WhatsApp group. Magazines and books were distributed free of cost to generate interest in Theosophy.

Mr Andrea Biasca-Caroni
Presidential Representative

VENEZUELA

Founded 1953, membership 15. The Foundation Day was celebrated in November. Meetings were on Sundays every week. Study classes and other activities have been cancelled from March to September 2020 due to the global pandemic. In every Lodge meeting, members meditate for half an hour for world peace. Books by I. K. Taimni, articles on science and spirituality, and so on were studied during the period.

Mrs Nelly Nouel
Presidential Representative

LODGES ATTACHED TO ADYAR

KHANA WARA LODGE (BOLIVIA)

Membership 24. The Lodge celebrated Foundation, Adyar and White Lotus Days. The Lodge meetings were on Wednesdays every week. There was also an online conference, "Wrath and Fear", conducted by Isaac Jauli and Enrique Reig.

Dora Camacho
Lodge President

LOTUS LODGE (CROATIA)

Membership 15. The Lodge meetings took place weekly. *Self-Culture* of I. K. Taimni is undergoing translation into Croatian at present. The website <teozofija.net> is under construction now.

Mr Ninoslav Volaj
Lodge Secretary

EL SOL LODGE (ECUADOR)

Membership 12 (2017). No report.

ARC-EN-CIEL AND ANANDA LODGES (FRANCE)

Membership 15 each. Foundation Day and White Lotus Day were celebrated jointly by the two Lodges. The Presidents and other officers were reelected in January. The members have been studying E. Lester Smith's *Intel-ligence Came First* and C. Jinarajadasa's *First Principles of Theosophy* re-spectively. A few seminars on "Sacred Feminine in Gnosis", "Intuition and Energy", and "The Inner Journey were conducted jointly by the two Lodges.

Mr Jean Iozia and Mrs Brigitte Iozia
Lodge Presidents

COVENANT LODGE (ISRAEL)

Membership 68. Regular activities consisted of weekly study sessions and monthly public lectures, both on a variety of subjects. Monthly "Secret Doctrine" study sessions were also in progress. A course, "Touching the Soul: Inner Emotional and Spiritual Development", and a public workshop, "Connecting Intuition, Listening to the Inner Voice", were conducted. Further evening conventions, meetings, workshops, and study sessions were also held. Ongoing guided meditation material for mornings and evenings was sent to members regularly since April. An interesting fact is that attendance has doubled and even tripled

in some cases after the shift to online meetings due to Covid-19. Moreover, some lapsed members have renewed their membership and new members have joined.

Mr Bracha Elron
Lodge President

FRATERNIDAD LODGE (PARAGUAY)

Membership 16. Report in Spanish in protected PDF format.

Sr Blas Osvaldo Añazco Lopez
Lodge President

H. P. BLAVATSKY LODGE (QATAR)

Membership 9. There were no meetings since February due to strict government controls and non-availability of many mem-bers on account of Covid-19. The expecta-tion is to resume activities from January 2021 after everybody gets the Pfizer vaccine.

Ganesh Shenoy
Coordinator

BLAVATSKY LODGE (SLOVENIA)

Membership 14. Members still met twice a week, on Mondays and Thursdays, the only change being the shift to online meetings due to Covid-19. Topics continued from the previous year: "Course in Miracles", "The Law of Karma", and HPBs *The Voice of the Silence*. A few translations of Geoffrey Hodson have been done, and Slovenian subtitles added for some English YouTube videos.

Mrs Tatjana Ruzic
Lodge President

ORLANDO LODGE (USA)

Membership 15. The Lodge continued to hold meetings (online since the onset of Covid-19) on 1st and 3rd Fridays monthly, except in summer (June, July and August). The first-Friday meetings consisted of N. Sri Ram's *Meditation on Life* followed by discussions on a selected theosophical topic. The third-Friday meetings were on a pre-selected theosophical textbook, *First Principles of Theosophy* by C. Jinarajadasa. There were monthly Healing Circle meetings on the 4th Friday, for those who need healing prayers. The website is <tso-orlando.org>

Mr Carl Metzger
Lodge President

INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORY
AND
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
GENERAL COUNCIL

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1947	Africa, East and Central	Mr Narendra M. Shah	PO Box 14525. 00800, Westlands, Nairobi, Kenya	*The Theosophical Light*	narendrashahi999@gmail.com
1909	Africa, South	Mr Desmond Chapman	31 Streatley Ave, cnr.Lothbury Ave, Auckland Park, Johannesburg PO Box 91523	*The South African Theosophist*	tsinsa.depgensec@telkomsa.net
1956	Africa, West	Mr John Osmond Boakye	PO Box 720, Accra, Ghana	*The West African Theosophist*	tswafrica@gmail.com
1929	America, Central *	Mrs Beatriz Elisena Martinez Pozas	Colonia Universitaria Norte, Calle Julio Mejia, Poligono, E-7 Mejicanos, San Salvador, EL SALVADOR		bemapo03@hotmail.com
1920	Argentina	Mr Esteban Langlois	Pje. Florencio Balcarce 71, Buenos Aires (1405)	*Teosofía en Argentina*	secretaria@sociedadteosofica.org.ar
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1895	Australia	Mrs Linda Oliveira	Level 2, 162 Goulburn St., Surry Hills, NSW 2010	*Theosophy in Australia*	tshq@austheos.org.au
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2013	Bangladesh †	Mr B. L. Bhattacharya	B/4-3, Iswarchandra Nibas, 68/1, Bagmari Road, Kolkata 700 054		blbtos_2005@yahoo.com
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1910	Switzerland †	Mr Andrea Biasca-Caroni	Via Collina 19, 6612 Ascona, CH-6612	*The Lotus*	info@teosofia.ch
1997	Togo *	Mr Kouma Dakey	S.O., A.R.T.T., BP 76, Adeta		
2013	Ukraine *	Mrs Svitlana Gavrylenko	Office 3, 7-A Zhylianska St., Kiev 01033	*Svitoch*	org@theosophy.in.ua
1886	USA	Dr Barbara B. Hebert	PO Box 270, Wheaton, IL 60187-0270	*The Quest*	info@theosophical.org
1925	Uruguay *	Mrs Ema Ma. de Souza Leal	Javier Barrios Amorín 1085, Casilla de Correos 1553, Montevideo		st.uruguay@gmail.com
1925	Venezuela †	Mrs Nelly Nouel	Romualda a Socarrás, Edif. de Oro Piso 12, Apto. 122 – Caracas		nellynouel5@gmail.com
1922	Wales *	Mrs Julie Cunningham	Bryn Adda, Brynsiencyn, Llanfairpwll, Anglesey, LL61 6NX UK		theosophywales@yahoo.co.uk

Date refers to the date of formation ** Regional Association* *† Presidential Agency* *▲ Lodge attached to Adyar*

The Council of the European Federation of National Societies: *Chairman:* Miss Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu, 67 Rue des Pommiers, F-45000 Orleans, France. Email: **trankimdieu@msn.com**
Inter-American Theosophical Federation: *President:* Mrs Isis M. B. Resende, SGAS 603 conj. E s/n. Brasilia-DF, CEP 70200-630 – Brazil. Email: **imbresende@gmail.com**
Indo-Pacific Theosophical Federation: *President:* Mr Gerard Brennan, 42 Melbourne Street, Concord, 2137, Sydney, Australia Email: **president@ipf-ts.org**
Pan-African Theosophical Federation: *Chairman:* Mr Tom Davis, 9 Ronean, 38 Princess Avenue, Windsor E 2194, South Africa. Email: **thosgdavis@icon.co.za**

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

Mr Vicente Hao Chin Jr., No. 143, Maria Clara Street, Talayam, Quezon City, The Philippines (for 2019, 2020 and 2021)

Ms Tran-Thi-Kim-Dieu, No. 4, Square Rapp, 75007 Paris, France (for 2019, 2020 and 2021)

Mrs Patrizia Moschin Calvi, Viale Quintino Sella, 83/E, 36100, Vicenza, Italy (for 2018, 2019 and 2020)

Mr Vinayak Pandya, 24/D Jeevan Parag, 127, Prabhat Colony Road No. 2, Santacruz (East), Mumbai-400 055, India (for 2018, 2019 and 2020)

Mr Marcos de Resende, SGAS Quadra 603, N. 20, CEP 70200-630, Brasilia (DF), Brazil (for 2018, 2019 and 2020)

Prof. C. A. Shinde, The Theosophical Society, Adyar, Chennai 600 020, India (for 2018, 2019 and 2020)

MINUTES

Theosophical Society General Council Meeting on 19 and 20 December 2020 via Zoom meeting both days at 4:30 pm Chennai, 6 am Chicago time

PRESENT

Mr Tim Boyd	*President*
Mrs Deepa Padhi	*Vice-President*
Ms Marja Artamaa	*Secretary, proxy from Esteban Langlois for 20 December*
Ms Nancy Secrest	*Treasurer*
Ms Trān-Thi-Kim-Diễu	*Additional Member, proxy from Jeannine Leguay (Fr)*
Mr Vicente Hao Chin, Jr	*Additional Member*
Mrs Patrizia Moschin Calvi	*Additional Member*
Mr Marcos de Resende	*Additional Member*
Mr Vinayak Pandya	*Additional Member*
Prof. C. A. Shinde	*Additional Member*
Mr Narendra Shah	*General Secretary. Africa East and Central*
Mr Esteban Langlois	*General Secretary, Argentina, absent on 20 December*
Mrs Linda Oliveira	*General Secretary, Australia*
Mrs Sabine van Osta	*General Secretary, Belgium*
Mr Sergio Carvalho de Moraes, Jr	*General Secretary, Brazil*
Mrs Jenny Baker	*General Secretary, England*
Mr Janne Vuononvirta	*General Secretary, Finland*
Mrs Manuela Kaulich	*General Secretary, Germany*
Mr Alexandros Bousoulengas	*General Secretary, Greece*
Mr Pradeep Gohil	*General Secretary, India*
Mr Antonio Girardi	*General Secretary, Italy*
Mr Wim Leys	*General Secretary, the Netherlands*
Mr John Vorstermans	*General Secretary, New Zealand*
Mr Charlton Romero	*General Secretary, the Philippines*
Mr Carlos Guerra	*General Secretary, Portugal*
Mrs Angeles Torra-Buron	*General Secretary, Spain*
Mrs Birgitta Skarbo	*General Secretary, Sweden*
Mrs Svitlana Gavrylenko	*General Secretary, Ukraine*
Mrs Barbara Hebert	*General Secretary, USA*

Present as Observers :

Ms Krista Umbjarv	*France, Secretary, European Federation*
Mrs Erica Georgiades	*Greece*
Mr Isaac Jouli	*Mexico, the first day*
Mr K. Jaikumar	*General Manager, Adyar, present on 20 December*

The President welcomed those present.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 28 June 2020 via Zoom, having been circulated, were approved with the following two corrections:

Deepa Padhi was not present at the 28 June 2020 meeting.

Janne Vuononvirta is Mr (not Mrs).

2. Matters arising out of the Minutes

None.

3. Voting and confirmation of Additional General Council members

The terms of Additional Members of the General Council listed below come to an end on 31 December 2020. The President had nominated the same for re-election under Rule 2. of the Rules and Regulations for the years 2021, 2022, and 2023 with the following voting results:

Mrs Patrizia Moschin Calvi	28 in favour,	0 against
Mr Vinayak Pandya	28 in favour,	0 against
Mr Marcos de Resende	28 in favour,	0 against
Prof. C. A. Shinde	28 in favour,	0 against

The President declared all four unanimously re-elected as Additional Members of the General Council for 2021, 2022, and 2023.

4. Report on the Non-English Publications Fund (NEPF)

The Treasurer reported that on 30 September 2020, the balance of the NEPF account held by the Theosophical Investment Trust under TS in America was $84,888.

NEPF Committee consists of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and one member who has been Ms Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu. The Committee is named every third year. The President suggested that the same would continue for the next three years, 2021–2023, which was unanimously approved.

5. Report on the International Funds

The Treasurer reported the status of International Funds as of 30 September 2020:

International Funds in USA

a.	ABC Fund	$1,612,427
b.	Adyar Renovation Fund	$10,098

International Funds in Australia

Funds were withdrawn for the LBC renovation resulting the balance to

a. ABC Fund (including Endowment Fund): A$55,521
b. Adyar Security Fund: A$5,928

6. Report by the President on the Headquarters

The pandemic of Covid-19 caused a lockdown in India at the Headquarters as in most of the countries from March 2020. At that time, the LBC renovation was in its final stage with 40 workers working and living at the campus in Neem Cottage. They had to leave the campus. The campus became closed to walkers and functions like Vocational Training Centre, Social Welfare Centre, Olcott Memorial Higher Secondary School, and Adyar Theosophical Academy. In residence there were about 100 people and the average age was high, the most vulnerable age for Covid. So we had to be very cautious. There has been a total of one case of Covid among residents in the early months of the pandemic.

Adyar has around 120 workers coming from outside. Public transportation was stopped, and many could not come to work even if they wanted to.

Adyar needs to have a certain level of functioning like maintenance, garden department, security and treasury. TS decided to pay all of the workers whether they could come to work or not. Those who did come as essential workers were paid an additional amount. Regular testing was required.

The lockdown is released somewhat in India, and we continue work in LBC with portions. It is a slower process.

For the next year, we do not know yet if large group meetings groups are allowed, so we are planning to have the Convention online again in December 2021.

The moving of the Archives from the Headquarters building to the Library building was completed. The Archives is named The Surendra Narayan Archives. Surendra Narayan was a former Vice-President of the TS. His family made a donation in his memory. A space almost three times larger than the old one was created at the Library building. The official opening was in the Fall 2020.

The renewal of the garden or park in front of the Headquarters building is the result of a donation and has been planned by a landscape architect.

Adyar Theosophical Academy (ATA) became one year old in June 2020. It is situated in the old Theosophical Publishing House (TPH), which was renovated. TPH moved to a new space in the Vasanta Press building. Applications to ATA have increased. During the pandemic, they use the Zoom platform to teach and contact children, parents, and also between teachers. There are 54 students.

Olcott School (126 years old, started by H. S. Olcott) has also gone to digital format but only for the higher grades. One corporation donated tablets and wireless hotspots to the students.

TS programs have gone online.

7. Treasurer's Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020

The Treasurer presented the Treasurer's Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020. The presentation of the accounts is made with the new procedures of the accounting system, making the format of the accounts a universal and modern way of presenting. The report includes the Auditors' opinions and the tax returns.

A high amount of depreciation came from Blavatsky Bungalow, which became fully completed just when this accounting year started. The other increase was due to completing the new Archives.

The Treasurer's Report and Accounts were approved with gratitude for the great work of the Treasurer and her staff.

8. The Budget for the year ending 31 March 2022

The Treasurer presented the Budget.

One correction to the sent accounts: Maintenance expenses included ATA classroom work which is to be corrected and thus decrease the costs by 60 lakhs and subsequently increase the capital, fixed assets, by 60 lakhs. The bottom line is not changed.

GC approved unanimously the Budget for the year ending 31 March 2022 with the addendum that the maintenance budget will be reviewed to distinguish between investment, renovation, and actual maintenance expense.

9. Appointment of Auditors for the year ending 31 March 2022

M/s Srihari & Co. were unanimously re-appointed as Auditors for the year ending 31 March 2022 on the same terms as before.

10. Appointment of Executive Committee (EC)

The President presented his nominations for the Executive Committee members for 2021. Vic Hao Chin Jr. and Marcos de Resende were also suggested. Although the Rules allow a maximum of 12 EC members, the President kept his nominations to continue with the current 10 EC members. The vote was in favour of the committee members as suggested, with one abstained.

The following were appointed as Executive Committee members for 2021: Mr Tim Boyd President (ex-officio)

Dr Deepa Padhi	Vice-President (ex-officio)
Ms Nancy Secrest	Treasurer (ex-officio)
Ms Marja Artamaa	Secretary (ex-officio)
Mrs Jenny Baker	General Council Member
Mr Pradeep Gohil	General Council Member
Prof. C. A. Shinde	General Council Member
Mr Jaikumar Kannan	Member
Mr Harihara Raghavan	Member
Mr A. L. Somayaji	Member

The President noted that the EC is elected each year and if a GC member has some suggestion in mind, pass them on to the President beforehand.

11. Voting and confirmation of the election of the Treasurer for three years (2021–2023)

The Executive Committee approved President's suggestion to re-confirm Ms Nancy Secrest for another three years (2021-2023). He also said that when Nancy came to India, three major things had to be addressed: 1) to have the bills paid on time, 2) to track the donations that come to Adyar to the purposes to which they are received, 3) to upgrade the accounting system to be entirely digitized. As of this year, all of these have been accomplished under Nancy.

Nancy Secrest was unanimously confirmed to be the Treasurer for the next three years, 2021, 2022, and 2023.

B R E A K - Meeting was adjourned to 20 December at 4:30 pm India time

12. Renovation Projects

The President invited Mr Jaikumar Kannan, the General Manager at Adyar, to

attend the meeting and present the renovation and repair projects of Adyar between 2019–2020.

Projects in 2019

- In January 2019, the Archives was shifted to new premises at the Library building from the Headquarters (HQ) building.

- TPH (Theosophical Publishing House) was shifted to the Vasanta Press building as ATA (Adyar Theosophical Academy) moved to its place after repairs. Vasanta Press had old machines which had to be relocated and the rooms repaired. ATA building modifications were done in 2019 after TPH had shifted.

- Other repairs in 2019 were in places like Olcott School, Adyar Library, Social Welfare Centre classrooms, and several residences.

- Quite a few infrastructure repairs were made with sanitation, electrical, cabling, and water pipelines — in the southern campus much more.

- HQ Hall garden project in front of the building has completely transformed the area, about 3–4 acres, with flowering plants, pathways, and usage of the pond. Now maintaining the garden is going on.

Projects in 2020

- Upgrade of New Quadrangle (NQ) is the next more extensive renovation. The rooms are overcrowded and the toilets are outside, which is a major difficulty, especially at night; it has roof leakages and termite damage at the doors and windows. NQ should have at least basic comfort. There will be an attached toilet to each room. The number of rooms is 24. All windows will be replaced either with wooden or aluminium frames. The design part of NQ is done, and we are now in contact with contractors. Estimates will follow.

- Besant Memorial Animal Dispensary (BMAD) has grown. Now there are large animals in addition to the dogs and cats. There are donkeys, horses, sheep, a camel etc. — all are rescued animals. BMAD needs more shelters and equipment in the rooms, improved water infrastructure, and fencing.

- The administration building and the annexe are crumbling. They are scheduled for a complete renovation.

- In addition, the list has 15–20 residences' repairs, 7–8 other offices, and several other infrastructure repairs.

- LBC produced tons of debris (7 lorry loads) from the demolition of the construction process. The contractors have removed it. In LBC there are a number of remaining

projects: rehabilitation, roof waterproofing, civil work, plumbing both inner and outer, electrical, air-conditioning, solar water heating, painting both inside and outside. Different contractors do these projects. Before the lockdown started in March 2020, we had about 40 outside workers residing in the TS. Management of this caused a huge problem, but at the same time, we had to get the work done. Due to pandemic restrictions, we had to vacate them immediately. After September, when we started allowing workers back, they needed to be tested negative to be allowed to enter the campus. It took six weeks to get things running again. Right now, we are in full flow. Civil work is nearing completion. Painting work and electrical work will take quite a bit of time. Interior of rooms for furniture, curtains, lighting etc. is then in the queue.

- The TS Adyar campus is 260 acres. Garden work is a big task, yet there are only five workers in the Garden Department. We are looking for garden contractors to provide workers.

- For the Garden of Remembrance, Buddhist Temple area, and the garden in front of the Library, we are looking for another contractor to take care after our staff has cleaned them.

- Sanitation is also a preeminent concern as the infrastructure is difficult to clean. The south side of the campus needs a significant upgrade. The water tank is having significant repairs right now. Pipelines will be upgraded this year. TS does not rely on the Government Corporation Water Supply. We have our own wells and water tanks.

- On the southern campus electrical infrastructure needs to be upgraded. On the main campus, both pipelines and electrical are better. The campus has about 250 electrical junction boxes that are corroded, not adequately wired, or without cover. For safety purposes, we are going to take this up. There is a backup generator for the main campus. In the southern campus, only ATA and Vasanta Press buildings are covered by a small generator.

The renovated LBC has 58 rooms, and 38 rooms are sponsored so far. It was suggested to initiate a similar kind of sponsorship for the New Quadrangle renovation.

The Executive Committee has set new rates for LBC — an increase of about 50% from the previous rates. As examples of member rates:

a) air-conditioned room for single is Rs. 1300 (18 USD)
and shared Rs. 1000 (14 USD) per person,

b) non-air-conditioned room for single is Rs. 1000 (14 USD)
and shared Rs. 700 (10 USD) per person.

Pradeep Gohil suggested thinking about having a theatre with a roof and a capacity of 1500–2000 people with a larger stage, steps-seating arrangement, probably with fans.

13. Damodar Gardens

The President summed up the current situation with the Damodar Gardens.

We are negotiating with Shiv Nadar Trust (SNT) along the lines of the Term Sheet which was discussed in the GC's June meeting 2020. The due diligence on our part was supposed to be done in September but has taken much more time.The land which was 30 acres in the 1970s, was partly sold becoming the current 14.2 acres. The land records for that are ok, but the local Government records need to be updated. The Term Sheet was extended to 15 January 2021, after which the Lease would be signed. Now we have to renew the Term Sheet. We have started the negotiations for the final Lease. The willingness on both sides exists despite the delays.

The President said that we are very fortunate to have Jaikumar involved in this process. Jaikumar brought in Mr Vaidyanathan, who has been instrumental in the negotiations. Mr Vaidyanathan has experience running Fortune 500 companies in India, especially with negotiations related to land and long term leasing. He is completely volunteering his time.

14. Proposal to award Alfred Trevor Barker for the Subba Row medal

The New Zealand Section has proposed giving the Subba Row medal to Alfred Trevor Barker, who initially compiled the *Mahatma Letters to A. P. Sinnett* into one volume. It was a monumental work for the world. Although A. T. Barker has passed away, the Section believes it would be good to recognise his work posthumously.

As there is no immediate relative, we can have the medal archived either with the TS/NZ or in the Adyar (Museum). Barker was a member in the 1920s but resigned in 1925, published the *Letters* in 1926 and *Letters to HPB* in 1927. He joined the Point Loma TS becoming their General Secretary in England for many years.

GC voted unanimously to present the Subba Row Medal to A. T. Barker.

Further investigation needs to be made about whom to deliver the Medal: NZ Section or the English Section or Adyar. Point Loma in California and Point Loma in The Hague should be involved in whatever ceremony it might be. Other theosophical groups will be informed.

15. TS Development Projects

The list of development projects from our strategic meetings at ITC Naarden in 2019 was viewed and updated.

Status of internal projects

A2 More meetings per year. Completed.

A11 Mission statement was created. Completed.

A15 Upgrade of facilities at Adyar — ongoing. Completed as a development project.

A21 Theosophy World — global online resource centre completed. It is constantly being added with material. The Spanish speaking section is there, as well as French translated books.

A22 TS TV: Marcos de Resende brought a question: how to bring the idea that it is not so difficult to run a TV Station. The platform can be filled with 24 hours of recorded theosophical videos. Brazil has it so in Portuguese. For example, one week's program can be repeated for the next or several weeks.

A42 International Speakers list has been sent. Completed.

Status of external projects

E1 Introductory booklet series was started. It had difficulties with the format and content and getting writers.

E6 Publication of researchers. Completed.

E11 Stress reduction centre by courses and sessions have started in the Philippines quite effectively and with good attendance from the public. It is called the Centre for Stress Management and Well-being. Completed.

E21 Active Theosophical Youth groups. The Philippines started a centre called Free Space Youth Centre, being run entirely by young people. Tim inaugurated the Centre during the Indo-Pacific Conference in November 2019. The Youth Federation, which was active a long time ago, has restarted officially again. There is also a group called Virtual Centre for Theosophical Studies, which is happening online.

E42 Self-transformation seminars are made also online and seem to work well.

E43 Meditation course for the public. The Philippines has a meditation session every Sunday online. Some other countries have theirs. *Guidelines for Meditation* by Vic Hao Chin Jr has been published and available.

E45 Theosophical Schools. We have now one in Adyar. Interest in education has been in Russia and Ukraine in addition to the previous discussions in Brazil, Argentina and Kenya. The book of Theosophical Education is translated into Russian.

E52 Bringing together religious leaders to dialogue could be a good project now.

Alexandros Bousoulengas volunteered for this project.

Barbara Hebert suggested that in the following meetings, we would look at the list with different eyes because this list was created before the pandemic year, during which many things have changed with online possibilities and other changes.

16. Discussion on work around the world

General Secretaries reported the main points from their country. Every Section has faced the same situation by the pandemic since March 2020, not allowing physical meetings, except New Zealand. NZ has been able to have face-to-face meetings, and several members have attended Zoom meeting of the Philippines. Online sessions using Zoom or Teams have increased a lot and taken a form of study and communication, resulting in substantial participation in various language groups. It has made it possible to invite international speakers as traveling is not a hindrance.

The video of the President's Address at the Opening of the Convention on 31 December will report about the countries. Here are just some notes:

East and Central Africa: having online meetings is difficult and in many places impossible. Narendra Shah requested about 1) an introductory study course on Theosophy for beginners and 2) a study course on meditation. A senior member would present them and discuss them in the members meeting.

The Philippines has a correspondence course with a compiled manual on Ageless Wisdom. The American Section also has an introductory course with various topics in a written form, which can be downloaded from their website. Theosophy World website has study courses that are all available for download.

One development project was to collect meditation courses from which three were regarded fine for sharing. Vic Hao Chin Jr has made a book, *Guidelines to Meditation*.

Australia had taken some projects: to publish a book on *Theosophy and Science* — a collection of articles by Dr Hugh Murdoch who was an astrophysicist and national secretary for 50 years; and a study course on I. K. Taimini's book, *Science of Yoga*.

The Philippines started online Zoom meetings in April 2020 with a small group and started to invite international participants and speakers. It became quite popular. Also, Vic began weekly online meditations which attracted many through Facebook.

Spain has Zoom programs together with the South American Spanish-speaking countries. Also, French, Portuguese, and English speaking members have found the Zoom events.

Ukraine arranges Zoom meetings and studies in cooperation with Russian TS. Svitlana Gavrylenko asked if online groups can be made official. Reply is that at the moment, we do not have a provision for virtual groups or lodges but by all means, those groups can continue studying.

Brazil: each Zoom meeting which they have daily are recorded to YouTube into playlists by subjects. They created a WhatsApp group for people from the internet to inform of events.

TS America started a national Lodge where members can sign up to receive a lesson for each month. For studying the papers, they created online discussion groups. Discussions are open on different days and different time zones so that members can choose their time.

New Zealand released a study course on a learning platform with seven sessions called "Exploring Theosophy in Today's World". It is free. NZ published a new book, *The Ancient Mysteries*, articles by Geoffrey Hodson.

The Netherlands has started a podcast called Radio Lila once a week. The Section has translated and published Vic's *Guidelines to Meditation* and Geoffrey Hodson's *Yoga of Light*.

The President mentioned that the preparation for the 145th International Convention, which focuses each day on different regions (the Americas, Europe and Africa, the Indo- Pacific) has a team which meets every week. Chally Romero is representing the Indo- Pacific region, Barbara Hebert has coordinated the efforts of North and South America, Krista Umbjarv has taken coordination for Europe and Africa, and the Youth Forums. Marja Artamaa made the convention website and kept the whole group on track. There are approximately 38 pre-recorded talks, most of which will be translated and subtitled in English. Translations are in nine languages, of which four are Indian languages. Participants can listen to the talk in one's preferred language through the language channel. There was no registration fee, but a donation button was on the website. It has worked well as it comes to the figures.

17. Any other business

The matter of cancellation of membership was brought up. It was suggested that we should never come to a situation where we need to cancel someone's membership "within the limits of courtesy and consideration for others". Dialogue rather than cancellation was suggested.

The President noted that although he has not cancelled anyone himself, there had been a few cancellations in Sections during his term.

There was some discussion with the conclusion that cancellations based on differences of opinion have not occurred as far as known. However, there have been cases when extreme behaviour could not be managed even through mediation. It has been destructive and breaking the community with no positive result. Cancellation is always a very difficult decision and always is a last resort.

18. Closing of the meeting

The President appreciated and thanked everyone for the excellent meeting. The following GC meeting will be on 26 June 2021.

The meeting was closed at 9 pm India time.

Marja Artamaa
International Secretary,
TS Adyar, Chennai 600 020